VOL 5 No 11 NOVEMBER 1975

SURVEY of Current Affairs

Government and Administration

Northern Ireland 427

External Affairs and Defence

British-Saudi Relations 430
Britain and Latin America 431

Economic and Scientific Affairs

The Economy 433
Government's Industrial Strategy 434
Family Expenditure Survey 1974 436
Trends in Invisible Trade 437
British Construction Overseas 439
Awards to Industry 443
Offshore Oil and Gas 444
National Water Council 445
Overseas Aid 446
The Crown Agents 448

Social and Cultural Affairs

Social Security 449
National Health Service 449
Help for Disabled People 451
European Architectural Heritage Year 451
Nature Conservancy Council 452
Sport 452
Gambling 453

Documentation

454

University of Windsor
JAN 2 1976
Library

Prepared for British Information Services by the Central Office of Information, London

Inquiries should be addressed to

REFERENCE DIVISION
CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION
HERCULES ROAD
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD
LONDON SE1 7DU

Telephone
Editorial 01-928 2345 ext 440
Distribution 01-928 2345 exts 8166/8169

GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Northern Ireland

Recent developments in Northern Ireland include the proscription of the Ulster Volunteer Force and proposed changes in the measures taken to preserve law and order; the preparation by the Constitutional Convention (see p 179) of its final report; and the holding in Belfast of the first economic conference of its kind to be held in the United Kingdom.

EMERGENCY PROVISIONS AMENDMENT ORDER

Moving a motion to affirm an Amendment Order made under the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1973 (*Hansard*, 4.11.75, cols 233-94), the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Merlyn Rees, said that the Ulster Volunteer Force (a 'Loyalist' para-military group) had previously been 'de-proscribed' (see p 108, 1974) because it had shown signs, which the Government wished to encourage, of wishing to find its way back to political activity. Recently, however, it had become clear that some of its members were deeply involved in sectarian violence and it had been responsible for a series of incidents which had included the indiscriminate killing of Catholics. For this reason he was asking the House to approve an Order putting it back on the proscribed list.

SECURITY SITUATION

Mr Rees told the House that the year 1975 had faced the Government with a totally different set of security problems. In the previous two years the overwhelming feature had been the campaign of virtually unrestricted violence of the Provisional IRA, though there had been an undercurrent of sectarian violence. This year there had been fewer bombs and fewer attacks on the security forces (although these had been increasing in recent months, a development for which the Provisional IRA had to bear a large part of the guilt). The prime emphasis this year had been on sectarian and interfactional killings: out of a total of 207, of which 188 were civilian, 157 had been classed in this category. In the past week alone, five people had been killed and 64 injured. There had been 74 shooting incidents, the vast majority of which were concerned with the feud between the Official and the Provisional IRA. Crimes like these could only be described as 'gangsterism', and they could and would be dealt with by effective policing with the full support of the Army. The security forces had been remarkably successful in dealing with such crimes during 1975.

The Army still had to provide the framework for security, but the police would have to be the principal guardians of law and order. During 1975 the Royal Ulster Constabulary had grown by about 300 to 4,800 and the Reserve had almost doubled in size from 2,500 to not far short of 5,000. As the security situation improved and the police grew more successful, said the Secretary of State, he could envisage 'the Army being able to make a planned orderly and progressive reduction in accordance with my statement in the White Paper of July 1974' (see p 248, 1974). He had signed no interim custody orders since February of this year, because he believed that the full processes of the law were much more effective and more acceptable to the community than any emergency procedures, and he was therefore determined that criminals should be brought to justice through the courts.

Prison System

Mr Rees said that if his policy were to succeed, steps would have to be taken to deal with the 'unique problems' of the Northern Ireland prison system. The 1,465 'special category' prisoners (see p 48), who lived not in cells but in compound conditions, constituted one of these problems. Another was the unnecessarily high prison population due to the absence of a parole scheme in Northern Ireland, and the fact that this could not, at present, be rectified by the introduction of a scheme on the lines of that existing in Great Britain. Detailed studies had shown that it would not be possible, in compounds, to do the kind of professional assessment work involved nor to exercise the necessary degree of supervision when parole was granted.

The key to making progress was to build new prison accommodation, and this was being done at the Maze prison (where 200 cells would be available this month) and elsewhere. In the meantime the House would be asked, early in the new session, to approve an Order in Council which would provide for the conditional release of all convicted prisoners after one-half sentence (subject to good behaviour in prison), whether or not they had special category status. Under the scheme, which would be introduced on a phased basis over a four-month period from 1 March 1976, any prisoner

so released, who committed a further serious offence before the full term of his original sentence had expired, would be liable to serve its outstanding balance in addition to any other penalty which the court might impose. It was not intended that the scheme should apply to the 97 life-sentence prisoners in Northern Ireland; and it was proposed that, for those serving very short sentences (a year or less), for whom it would have very little practical effect, the prison rules should be amended to increase the amount of remission of sentence from one-third to one-half.

Special Category

The effect of this scheme, and of the new building programme, said Mr Rees, would enable him to bring the 'special category' status to an end. The facilities were not there for him to deal with those who had already been accorded this status (it seemed to him that nearly everyone who claimed it was granted it), but those who committed offences after March 1976 would be accommodated in cells.

The Secretary of State also said that he wished to 'make it clear beyond peradventure' that, contrary to a widespread belief in Northern Ireland, there would be no amnesty. 'Those who purport to believe', he said, 'that if murder and bombing have a convenient political label it means that they will receive an amnesty, tragically mislead themselves. Let there be no misunderstanding of this.'

Detention

On detention, Mr Rees told the House that since 1971 just over 2,000 people (including those detained more than once) had been interned or detained, and that the average time that they had been held in custody had been 18 months. [In an earlier statement (*Hansard*, 16.10.75, col 796) he had reported that in December 1974 there had been 565 detainees and that there were currently 191, all subject to detention orders.] There were two factors behind his desire to end detention (he was resolved to release all detainees by Christmas unless there was a fundamental change in the situation): the present successes in bringing people before the courts; and the price to be paid for detention, which undermined the law, alienated part of the community, and was a fertile ground for recruitment to the paramilitaries. Moreover, although detention had played an important part in dealing with violence in 1972-74, it had not ended it.

At the same time, Mr Rees assured the House that if the security position were to develop in such a way that detention was the right and only course, he would not hesitate to resort to it again, and he intended to seek the approval of the House to extend the relevant provisions in the Emergency Provisions Act (see p 256) so that the power to do so remained available to him. Mr Rees also said that 'I must emphasise that no release from detention carries any immunity in the courts against prosecution'.

Incident Centres

Referring to the Government's desire to see a permanent end to violence in Northern Ireland and to the steps it had taken to bring this about, which included the establishment of incident centres to monitor the ceasefire (see p 87), Mr Rees said that the centres had served a useful purpose, but that the changed nature of violence, the existence of various splinter groups and the events of the past few weeks had brought this usefulness into question. (Later – on 12 November – it was announced that the centres had been closed.)

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

On 23 October Mr Rees informed the House (*Hansard*, col 690) that its chairman had told him that the Convention expected to complete its final report by 7 November, the date on which it would cease to exist under provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 1974 (see p 247, 1974). There would therefore be no need to extend its life. On the question of recall he said that, although he thought it would be better for him to see the nature of the report[1] before making any comment about what he might do, he felt he must indicate to the House that he saw a continuing political dialogue taking place in Northern Ireland.

Later, on 31 October (*Hansard*, col 641) he reminded the House that the Northern Ireland Act also permitted the Secretary of State to continue paying salaries to Convention members for any time up to six months of its dissolution (the period during which it might be recalled). He had decided to exercise this power, so that Convention members would go on receiving their full salary after its report had been submitted to the Government. He could not say how long it would be appropriate to continue these payments, but he intended to give at least three months' notice of the date on which they would cease.

Resignation of Mr Craig

Mr William Craig, leader of the Vanguard Unionist Party, resigned from his post as deputy leader of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition in September, as a result of the failure of the inter-party talks held in Northern Ireland during August in an attempt to find some constitutional compromise to be presented to the Convention, when it reassembled after the recess. Mr Craig, who stood for a policy of an emergency coalition with the Social Democratic and Labour Party, was later expelled from the UUUC, but he was given a vote of confidence, and his policy was endorsed, by the Vanguard Party's Central Council by 128 votes to 78.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

At the economic conference held in Belfast on 17 October and attended by more than 150 representatives from Northern Ireland industry, commerce, agriculture, the trade unions and Government departments, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, who has special responsibility for economic affairs in the Province, Mr Stanley Orme, said that Northern Ireland's problems in the present serious economic situation were as great, but no greater, than in some other regions of the United Kingdom. Government

[1] After debating the proposals put forward by the various parties, the Convention decided, by 39 votes to 30, that those of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition should be the basis of its final report.

intervention was helping to combat the Province's unemployment, and a ten-point package, aimed at reducing it, had just been announced. The total cost of £7 million was higher proportionately than the allocation for any other United Kingdom region.

Measures Against Unemployment

The principal measure in the ten-point package referred to by Mr Orme is the Recruitment Subsidy Scheme for School Leavers, which, as in Great Britain, will provide for a payment of £5 a week for 26 weeks for young people who satisfy the criteria as announced (see p 409). The other measures are:

amenity works in forests, minor works on roads, rural water mains, small harbours, historic monuments, country parks and railways;

an extension of the current activities of Enterprise Ulster (see p 10, 1973);

an invitation to Enterprise Ulster to introduce a pilot scheme aimed at providing practical help at home for those people who are unable to cope with home maintenance because of age, sickness or physical handicap;

the acceleration of the advance factory programme by the building of two new factories and carrying out site works at Newry and Strabane – two areas of particularly high unemployment;

the provision of warehousing at Newry to meet the needs of the area;

the renovation of a factory recently vacated by a computer equipment firm to make it more suitable for a prospective tenant;

the bringing into line of training and mobility allowances in Northern Ireland with those to be paid in Great Britain;

an increase in industrial training activity, with special emphasis on apprenticeship training and training within individual firms; and

the allocation of money for special training projects related, for example, to the demands of the newer technologies.

These measures, which are expected to provide some relief to workers in the construction industry, and particularly to unskilled workers, will, it is hoped, provide employment or training facilities for between 4,500 and 5,000 people.

British-Saudi Relations

Saudi Arabia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Crown Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz al Saud, paid an official visit to Britain between 20 and 23 October, during which he had talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, and other British Ministers on international questions of common interest and the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries. At the conclusion of these talks the two countries concluded a memorandum of understanding aimed at furthering economic, industrial and technological co-operation between them.

Communiqué

In a communiqué issued on 22 October both sides agreed that in the interdependent contemporary world, peace and prosperity were indivisible. Saudi Arabia, along with the rest of the Arab world, had an active interest in the maintenance of a strong and prosperous Europe. Conversely, a stable, peaceful, and growing Arab world was of utmost importance to Britain. Only through a sustained and serious effort to understand each other's views, problems and aspirations, therefore, could Europe and the Arab world develop harmonious and mutually beneficial contacts. Both sides pledged themselves to achieve this end.

Turning to the question of international development, the two countries expressed concern at the gap between developed and developing countries and acknowledged the efforts being made in international fora to reduce it. They emphasised the need to build a new international economic order which should have as a major goal real progress towards a more just and equitable structure of international economic relations. In this context, they noted with satisfaction the successful outcome of the seventh special session of the UN General Assembly (see pp 391-4). In considering other international issues of mutual concern, the two sides noted with satisfaction favourable changes in the international situation which had contributed to the process of *détente* and to increased co-operation between states. As regards the Middle East, they underlined the need for early progress towards the achievement of a comprehensive settlement in the region, adding that this should include a just solution of the Palestinian question.

Both sides noted with satisfaction, the communiqué continued, that bilateral relations between them had developed favourably in recent years (see also pp 18-19), and agreed that their further expansion and diversification would be in accordance with the interests of both peoples and the cause of international peace and co-operation. They agreed, therefore, to intensify political contacts and consultations at all levels and to develop further their relationship in all areas of mutual interest. The important role of economic collaboration in strengthening friendship between the British and Saudi peoples was also recognised, and the two sides resolved to make sustained efforts to increase substantially the volume of trade exchanges on the basis of mutual advantage, noted with satisfaction the participation of British institutions and firms in the framework of the Saudi five-year plan, and signed a memorandum of understanding to provide a stronger framework for economic, industrial and technological co-operation (see below). Finally, both sides expressed their satisfaction at the conclusion between the British Council and Saudi Arabian universities of agreements for the provision of English language teaching services; and reaffirmed their common desire to extend and diversify their educational, cultural and technical exchanges, in order to improve the knowledge of each of the two peoples about the other. To this end it was agreed that a long-term cultural agreement would be signed during a forthcoming visit to Saudi Arabia of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr James Callaghan.

Memorandum of Understanding

The memorandum of understanding on economic, industrial and technological co-operation signed on 22 October gives effect to an Agreed Minute on Economic Co-operation which was initialled in Riyadh by British and Saudi officials last March. Under its terms the two Governments agree, *inter alia*, to identify precise fields of co-operation, encourage the participation of private companies and public corporations as far as possible in development projects and facilitate the speedy and effective implementation of agreed projects. To this end a joint commission is to be established based on representatives of the appropriate ministries in each country together with experts. This will meet in Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom alternately. Three sub-committees will be set up initially, one dealing with industrial projects, one with infrastructure and manpower development and the third with agricultural projects. Finally, the memorandum

provides for permanent liaison offices to be set up in Riyadh[1] and in London.

Britain and Latin America

Among recent developments in the increasingly closer relations between Britain and Latin America have been official visits to Britain during October by the Foreign Ministers of Venezuela and Brazil. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, Dr Ramon Escovar Salom, visited Britain from 13 to 15 October, while the visit of the Brazilian Minister for External Relations, Senhor Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, took place on 21 and 22 October. While in London, both ministers had wide-ranging discussions on international matters and subjects of bilateral interest with a number of British ministers, including the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson. They also met leading British industrialists and businessmen.

The visits of Dr Salom and Senhor da Silveira were described by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Edward Rowlands, in a press interview on 9 October, as part of a policy by which Britain is giving high priority to developing 'a modern and forward-looking relationship with Latin America'. In this relationship, Britain hopes for growing exchanges with Latin America in the political, social, cultural and educational spheres, as well as commercial and technological links. Increased contacts at the political and ministerial level have already begun. During the past year there have been a number of British ministerial visits to Latin America: among the most recent have been those of Mr David Ennals, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who visited Venezuela, Brazil and Mexico; Mr Anthony Crosland, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who went to Venezuela and Costa Rica; and Dr David Owen, Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Security, who also visited Venezuela and Brazil.

VENEZUELAN AND BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' VISITS

On 14 October, Dr Salom met the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr James Callaghan, for a general exchange of views on a number of current international problems. Their discussions concentrated particularly on the Caribbean, energy, oil and food in the context of the forthcoming Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, and the dangers inherent in the proliferation of nuclear technology. (In this connection, Mr Callaghan later publicly welcomed Venezuela's recent ratification of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.) They also discussed the existing opportunities for increased trade and industrial co-operation between Britain and Venezuela – a subject which was examined in more detail during Dr Salom's subsequent meeting with the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr Peter Shore.

An important feature of the Brazilian Foreign Minister's visit was the signing on 21 October of a Memorandum of Understanding between the British and Brazilian Governments. This document, signed by Mr Callaghan, Mr Shore and Senhor da Silveira, provides for consultations between the two Governments on the whole spectrum of international relations, including such subjects as international developments of special interest to either Government, matters under discussion at the United Nations and in other multilateral bodies, and future arrangements for commodities and raw materials. In bilateral relations the Memorandum provides for general economic and industrial co-operation, the strengthening of commercial relations, particularly in industrial development, facilitation of investment, banking, credit and similar services for the promotion of industry and commerce, and technological and educational exchanges. Consultations will be held at senior official or ministerial level, taking place alternately in Britain and Brazil at times arranged by mutual consent; they will also be carried forward on a flexible and day-to-day basis through the normal diplomatic channels in both countries, and through *ad hoc* study groups and working parties.

Senhor da Silveira had two meetings with Mr Callaghan, in which the Foreign Ministers discussed subjects of topical interest to both countries and reviewed recent international developments. They also discussed economic affairs and the development of Anglo-Brazilian trade – subjects which were taken up in talks with Mr Peter Shore, who had himself visited Brazil in 1974. Here, attention was paid to the priority areas of the Second Brazilian National Development Plan in which a British contribution would be most useful. Senhor da Silveira stated that Brazil's particular interest lay in joint ventures with Britain in the economic field, particularly in manufacturing industry, iron and steel, railways, highly developed communications and petroleum. With other British ministers, Senhor da Silveira had fruitful conversations in the fields of cultural relations, technological co-operation and joint ventures in agro-industry and defence.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The close relationship which developed between Britain and Latin America in the nineteenth century was based largely – though by no means entirely – on investment and trade. At the turn of the century, 45 per cent of the total foreign investment in the region came from Britain, while 9 per cent of all British exports went to Latin America. Though no longer of these proportions, British trade with Latin America has recently taken a definite upward trend: for instance, British exports to the area in the first six months of 1975 showed an increase of approximately 60 per cent over the figure for the corresponding period of 1974. Britain's biggest customer in the region in this period was Brazil, to which exports worth £81·9 million were sold: British imports from Brazil amounted to £82·5 million. Next came Venezuela, Argentina and Mexico.

[1]Mr P. M. S. Corley, an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Trade, has been appointed head of the Riyadh office and is to start work there early in 1976.

As a member of the European Economic Community, Britain expects to benefit from the growing interest of Latin America in Western Europe as a source of investment capital, production goods and technology. Britain has recently obtained important orders in Latin America, including contracts for the manufacture and installation of Venezuela's first undersea telephone cable link with Europe, the equipment and construction of an ironmaking, steelmaking and casting plant in Mexico, the design and construction of a sugar cane processing plant in El Salvador, and the design and construction of a loading jetty, together with the associated machinery and electrical installation, for a marine terminal in Peru. Joint venture agreements have also recently been signed with Brazilian companies in the fields of engineering and construction: the British Government is particularly interested in establishing this type of co-operation in Latin America, instead of simply a 'buyer-seller' relationship.

BRITISH AID TO LATIN AMERICA

British aid to Latin America in 1973 amounted to £3·8 million, of which over 60 per cent took the form of technical assistance. This included the provision of 251 experts and 160 volunteers financed wholly or partly from British Government funds, study and training facilities in Britain for 1,330 students and trainees from the region, books and equipment, the services of the Ministry of Overseas Development's specialist units such as the Land Resources Division and the Tropical Products Institute, and the services of British consultants to undertake feasibility studies for a wide range of projects.

Latin American countries, many of which are engaged in building new industrialised societies, are particularly anxious for British expert assistance. Recently, Britain has sent a team of three advisers to work in the National Irrigation Planning Authority in Brazil, and has undertaken water supply studies in Peru, Costa Rica, Ecuador and El Salvador. A particular area of co-operation is in the field of technical education, where aid has been channelled through the Council for Technical Education and Training for Overseas Countries. Recently, Britain has also advised on the establishment of a training centre at a major steel complex in Mexico and has sent a team of four technical education advisers to Mexico City to work with the Mexican Ministry of Education. Technical assistance has also been provided for agricultural projects and for schemes of rural development.

ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

The Economy

In a speech given at the Lord Mayor's Banquet for bankers and merchants of the City of London on 16 October, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Denis Healey, began by outlining the depth of the world recession and the prospects for a satisfactory recovery. Unemployment, he said, had risen to over 13 million in the ten major countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. However, evidence now available on the second quarter of 1975 suggested that the sharp decline in the gross national product of most industrial countries might be levelling out. As the rate of destocking diminished and the new measures taken by some countries (see p 399) became effective there should be a fairly rapid recovery in the world economy and world trade during 1976.

Turning to the British economy, Mr Healey said that progress had been made in three crucial respects – the balance of payments, inflation and business confidence. He estimated that the balance of payments deficit in 1975 would be under half the almost £3,700 million deficit of 1974, despite continued heavy imports of both goods and services for the development of North Sea oil. In the first half of 1975 the import volume had fallen sharply but exports had held up well, despite stiffer competition in the face of declining markets. Britain had actually increased its share of world trade. The Chancellor pointed out, however, that the fall in Britain's imports reflected a drastic reduction of stocks, especially of oil. In the third quarter of 1975, the arrival of major oil production installations had alone added over £200 million to the import bill. However, the resulting output of North Sea oil would progressively improve the balance of payments in the years ahead (see p 444).

Mr Healey said that by the middle of 1975 inflation had been running at about 25 per cent a year. It had become the root cause of all Britain's immediate economic problems and its source lay within Britain's control. The agreement in July 1975 between the Government and the Trades Union Congress (see p 269) had created the conditions for overcoming inflation. For the first time in Britain's history a powerful and independent trade union movement had voluntarily agreed to keep settlements to well below what was needed to compensate for inflation over the previous 12 months. He believed the £6 pay limit commanded overwhelming support among the British people as a whole. Already 2 million people were covered by settlements, or wages councils awards, within the £6 limit. This included a substantial number who had renegotiated agreements which would have conflicted with the policy, in order to bring them within the limit. The effect of the new incomes policy on the rate of inflation would not be seen until 1976. However, the monthly rate of price increase had begun to slow down in the second half of 1975.

The Chancellor thought that the steady progress now expected in mastering inflation should have an early effect on business confidence. Indeed the industrial opinion surveys already showed it. The renewal of business confidence would help to move the economy back to high employment. The financial position of companies was improving markedly, largely as a result of the action the Chancellor took in the Budgets of November 1974 and April 1975.[1] As the rate of inflation fell, industry would have a firmer base from which to translate the upturn in its finances into productive investment. By the first quarter of 1975 the company sector's financial deficit had been reduced to a third of its peak level in the middle of 1974, and preliminary returns showed that the improvement had continued in the second quarter, giving near-balance in the first half of 1975. At the same time, the revival of the stock market had increased the availability of external funds; capital issues amounting to nearly £1,000 million had been announced in 1975, and over £600 million has been subscribed so far. The enlarged Finance for Industry (see p 428, 1974) had begun to play a useful part in providing medium-term loan finance. Together these changes meant that, in general, investment should no longer be held back by a shortage of funds.

Public Sector Borrowing

Mr Healey said that in spite of the size of the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) the Government had prevented the money supply from growing too fast. The recovery of the stock market had helped the Government in its financing just as it had helped industry. With regard to the size of the PSBR, he did not think it would be desirable, at a time when the economy was working below capacity and unemployment was still rising, to make immediate reductions in public expenditure in 1975. However, the situation would be very different when international and domestic demand recovered. If Britain was to take full advantage of the

[1] In these two Budgets the Chancellor gave tax relief to companies for stock appreciation. See p 428, 1974 and p 196.

upturn it had to increase the resources available for export and investment by containing the share of resources taken by the public sector. The Government had already made a start by reducing the planned level of public expenditure programmes for 1976-77 (see p 196). For the years beyond that there would at best be very little room for overall growth in public expenditure. A proper balance between public, private and corporate spending remained the best guarantee of full employment. The Chancellor drew attention to difficulties of forecasting and continuously monitoring the PSBR. The PSBR was the balance between two sides of an account – receipts and expenditure – which represented total transactions of about £100,000 million. Thus a forecasting error of as little as 1 per cent on either side of the account could represent a difference of £500 million in the estimate of the PSBR. These forecasting difficulties connected with the budget deficit were a common international phenomenon. The scale of the deficit in relation to the economy had also risen in many countries. The British budget deficit now represented about the same proportion of the national income as did the budget deficit of the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy.

Cash and Pay Limits

In an interview on BBC Radio 4 on 23 October Mr Healey said that the Government would apply a limit in money terms (that is cash limits – see pp 269-70) as well as constant prices to the rates support grant [given to local authorities to help finance their expenditure] and to programmes in many areas of public expenditure. The Government was working out how to apply the limits in detail. The excess of expenditure in real terms in 1974-75 over the planned level had been largely due to increases in local authority expenditure.

The Chancellor also said that it would be necessary to continue with some pay restraint policy beyond the end of the present pay round [in which increases in pay are limited to a maximum of £6 a week; see p 269]. It would not be possible to continue with a flat rate limit such as the £6 limit for more than one year and Mr Healey thought that it would be essential to restore pay differentials to some degree at the end of this pay round. He believed that the problem of wage setting could be solved within the concept of free collective bargaining as had been done successfully in the Scandinavian countries where working people and their representatives decide with the Government, at the beginning of the year, what wage increases would be compatible with other claims on the economy during the year and then try voluntarily to limit their claims to that broad limit.

Government's Industrial Strategy

AGREEMENT ON COMMON APPROACH

On 5 November a meeting of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) was held at Chequers under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, to discuss the Government's proposals for an industrial strategy. The meeting was attended by Cabinet Ministers, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey, and the Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Varley, and by representatives of the Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry. The Government's policy was set out in a paper entitled *An Approach to Industrial Strategy,* prepared by Mr Healey and Mr Varley. After the NEDC meeting, Mr Varley announced further measures to stimulate industrial development and to extend the existing scheme to accelerate deferred capital projects (see pp 352 and 408).

An Approach to Industrial Strategy

In a foreword to the Government's paper, Mr Healey and Mr Varley summarised the Government's task as being 'to reverse the relative decline of British industry which has been continuous for many years'. It was to a large extent the deteriorating performance of British industry that was causing Britain's exceptional immediate difficulties in the economic recession that was gripping the whole world. Any approach to an industrial strategy had to be realistic and flexible and at the same time had to engage the co-operation and drive of both management and labour, in both the private and public sectors.

The paper emphasised that the objective for Britain to become a high output, high wage economy could only be achieved by improving industrial performance and raising the growth of productive potential. A soundly based strategy for manufacturing industry was needed to help improve British industry's international competitiveness and also to act as a guide for manpower planning. In some sectors of industry there would be some shedding of labour and in sectors with good prospects there would be some expansion of capacity and increase of employment. Policies involving training, re-training and mobility of labour would have to be linked to the industrial strategy.

In listing a number of factors held to be responsible for industry's poor performance by international standards, the paper said that there was no universal agreement on them; the importance of some, such as an over-valued exchange rate and excessive international responsibilities, had declined, while others, such as a limited supply of labour for manufacturing industry to draw on, were likely to affect Britain more deeply than some of its competitors. International factors were likely to make some of the problems more difficult in the future; increased competition from low-cost producers in the developing world, for example, could affect both terms of trade and the security of the supply of food and raw materials.

To enable the strategy to be effective there were several requirements. The Government was introducing 'powerful new instruments' – in particular planning agreements and the National Enterprise Board (NEB, see pp 104-5), which would be important for various purposes, including the better co-ordination of Government and companies' industrial policies, the deployment of financial

assistance to industry, and the improvement in planning, both in industry and by Government. It was necessary to ensure that both public and private industry were able to earn sufficient profits on their investment to spur managements to expand and innovate and to provide them with the internal finance on which to base investment. Some funds would be provided through the NEB and some through Finance for Industry (see p 428, 1974), but it would also be essential that the market should be able to meet the needs of industry. A more effective manpower policy would help supply skilled manpower for growth industries and would cope with the problems of people transferring to these from contracting industries. The Manpower Services Commission (see p 69, 1974) and its agencies would play an important part in this. Above all there was the need to move away from policies of confrontation and to work together in the national interest towards agreed objectives.

Although the Government would still have to maintain a balance between economic and social objectives, the paper continued, it intended to give priority in the immediate future to industrial development over consumption and even over its social objectives. It intended to give greater weight, and more consistently than hitherto, to the need for increasing the national rate of growth through regenerating the industrial structure and improving efficiency. There was no other way of developing the industrial base on which the Government's whole programme of economic and social reform depended. Unions and management would have the main task of achieving higher productivity in industry; this would require not only more investment, better directed, but also improvements in working methods, including the reduction of overmanning and restrictive practices and the transfer of workers into expanding sectors. Wholehearted co-operation by the trade union movement at national and at plant level would be called for. Similarly, management would need to be alert to opportunities at home and overseas and great efforts would have to be made to bring the level of efficiency and profitability of the poorer companies up towards that of the best.

Framework of the Strategy

The Government aimed to provide a framework in which to consider the likely prospects of the most important sectors of industry over a period of five or more years ahead and to indicate their role in meeting Britain's overall economic objectives, taking into account certain likely international developments. The framework would have to be reviewed and adjusted at regular intervals to take account of changing circumstances. Initially it would rest on two main elements, of which the first would be an analysis of past performance of individual sectors of manufacturing industry, based on a number of statistical indicators such as size, growth rate, trading performance, import content, growth of world demand and importance to other sectors, with the competitiveness of the industry at home and abroad as a key factor. The second element would be the implications for different industries and sectors of alternative medium-term growth assumptions, using as starting point the Government's medium-term projection.

On the basis of this statistical framework the Government would make an initial assessment, taking into account a wide range of qualitative factors such as scope for improvement, potential for import substitution, the development of new technologies and so on, with the aim of identifying the sectors most important to the economy. There would be some 30 or so of these sectors, which would be divided into three groups: those intrinsically likely to be successful, judging by past performance and current prospects; those with potential for success if appropriate action were taken; and industries whose performance was most important to the rest of industry. The sector-by-sector analysis would be a starting point for the development of the Government's own industrial planning and a framework for discussion and action by the Government and by both sides of industry at national, industry and company level.

At the national level there was a wide range of Government policies affecting industry. Closer consultation at this level would be carried out primarily through the NEDC. Quite apart from the policies for selective intervention, industry would want from the Government an assurance that it accepted as a major objective of economic policy the ability of industry to earn a reasonable rate of return on capital. The Government had made it clear that it accepted the importance of sustaining a vigorous, alert, responsible and profitable private sector of industry. It was equally important that public industry should be able to draw on retained surpluses for its own investments.

At industry level, the Economic Development Committees (EDCs) would make a substantial contribution to the discussions with individual industries in the three groupings described above of the analysis of their industrial prospects. Publicly owned industries would also come within the scope of the strategic planning process, to enable their plans, and those of their supplier industries, to be related to each other, but since (with the exception of steel) they were utilities rather than manufacturing industries, they would not come within the three groups.

There would also be discussion of the industrial projections and their implications at company level, primarily in the context of planning agreements. The Government would provide support in certain individual cases, such as for key investment projects; criteria for assistance would include the need to ensure that the company concerned was likely to be viable in the longer term.

Procedure

The Government envisaged three stages for the operation in a normal year. In the late summer material would be put to the NEDC, setting out the main components of the Government's medium-term projection, identifying the 30 or so important sectors in three groups and giving for each sector listed the appropriate figures from the Government's overall medium-term projections and descriptive material about the industry concerned, including its strengths and weaknesses. The second stage would involve remitting the latter material to the

EDCs, or to tripartite *ad hoc* committees, and both sides of industry and the Government would attempt to identify areas for improvement. At the third stage, the results of these discussions would be pulled together by a representative official group and this report would form the basis for discussion by the NEDC. The initial timetable for the strategy would be more flexible and it was intended that an experimental analysis should be produced for consideration by the NEDC early in the New Year.

When the proposals had been put into practice the Government would be able to examine the problems of industries and companies against a coherent framework and would use the whole range of its powers to help deal with these problems.

Prime Minister's Statement

At a press conference following the NEDC meeting, Mr Wilson summed up the proposals contained in the paper. In particular he stressed that Britain's prosperity was ultimately dependent upon the prosperity of British manufacturing industry, which accounted for about 30 per cent of output and employment and over 80 per cent of visible exports. He said that all of those present at the meeting had accepted that a declining economy had to be transformed into a high output, high earnings economy, based on full employment. The new proposals constituted an approach rather than an immediate solution, but it was a common approach, shared by Government and the representatives of the unions and management on the NEDC.

Further Support Measures

Mr Varley announced after the NEDC meeting a further extension of the scheme announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his April Budget, for selective assistance under the Industry Act to be made available to accelerate investment projects which might otherwise have been deferred. Companies were being encouraged to bring forward major projects that they had planned but shelved or postponed. Three further measures announced by Mr Varley were: an extension of the qualifying date for projects under the present scheme up to end of September 1976; a reduction of the qualifying limit on the capital cost of projects from £1 million to £500,000, including working capital; and, thirdly, the provision of an additional £20 million specifically for modernisation projects (previously excluded) which met other qualifying conditions.

The criteria for a project coming under the scheme are that it should be for new investment, modernisation, or both, with capital cost normally exceeding £500,000; it should be a net addition to the firm's capital investment programme in Britain, deferred but for Government assistance; it should be commercially sound, and lead to an improvement in Britain's balance of payments; and construction work on the installation of plant for the project should be planned to start before the end of September 1976 – priority being given to projects which would be completed early. Assistance will be in the form of loans at concessionary rates of interest or the equivalent in interest relief grant. The taking of equity will not be a condition of assistance.

Family Expenditure Survey 1974

Average net household income in 1974 was £48·35 a week, an increase of 16·3 per cent over the previous year, while expenditure amounted to £46·13, an increase of 17 per cent. These figures are among the findings of the *Family Expenditure Survey 1974* (HMSO £3·50, ISBN 0 11 361094 7) published in October. The report is the latest in an annual series covering the expenditure of private households based on a representative sample of 6,695 households. It is carried out by the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys on behalf of the Department of Employment.

The survey shows little change in the pattern of household expenditure over 1973 (see p 443, 1974). Expenditure on the main items of food (24·5 per cent), housing (13·8 per cent), and transport and vehicles (13·4 per cent) as proportions of total expenditure remained almost static while there was a small increase, by 0·5 per cent to 7·7 per cent, in the proportion of expenditure on a group of miscellaneous items including books and newspapers, toilet requisites, sports goods and jewellery. In money terms average expenditure on food increased by £1·66 to £11·29 in 1974.

A series of tables on the sources of household income shows that of the average total income before deductions of £58·33, the head of the household contributed £43·24, £30·04 of which was wages and salaries. As a proportion of total income, wages and salaries from all members of the household contributed 72·4 per cent, social security benefits 9·4 per cent, income from self-employment 7·5 per cent and income from sub-letting and rent 3·9 per cent.

Regional Variations

Regional breakdowns indicate the amount of money spent by families on various commodities in the two-year period 1973-74. On housing, most was spent in Greater London and least in Northern Ireland. Households in Greater London spent the most on meals out, in Scotland on cigarettes and tobacco, and in Scotland and Northern England on alcoholic drinks. Analysis by administrative area shows that the highest expenditure on transport and vehicles occurred in rural areas where the most was also spent on food, clothing and footwear. Expenditure on services was greatest in Greater London and on alcoholic drink and tobacco in provincial conurbations.

Household Goods and Amenities

The survey shows an increase in the percentage of households with certain durable goods and amenities. In 1974, 49·5 per cent had a telephone, compared with 43·3 per cent in the previous year; 43 per cent had central heating, compared with 38·5 per cent; 81 per cent had a refrigerator or deep freeze compared with 77·6 per cent; 55·7 had the use of a car (including 10·4 per cent with two or more), compared with 53·9 per cent; 68·9 per cent owned a washing machine, compared with 66·6 per cent; and television was available to 94 per cent compared with 93·4 per cent.

Trends in Invisible Trade

The net surplus on invisibles increased by 7 per cent between 1973 and 1974. In 1974 the net surplus is estimated to have been £1,566 million, compared with £1,460 million in 1973 and £818 million in 1972. These figures, which incorporate some revisions to previous estimates, were given in *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964-74* (see p 380). The following article is based on an analysis in *Trade and Industry*.[1]

Travel showed a large net surplus in 1974 compared with a virtual balance in 1973. This, combined with the increase in the net surplus on other services more than offset the increase in the deficit on sea transport, resulting in an increase in the net surplus of private and public corporations' services. This surplus more than offset the net deficit on Government services. The net surplus for 1974 on interest, profits and dividends fell compared with 1973. The net deficit on Government transfer payments was lower while that on private transfers remained unchanged.

In the first half of 1975, however, the net surplus on invisibles of £696 million was well below the figure of £815 million for the first half of 1974. A fall in the net surplus on private and public corporations' services (despite an increase in the net surplus on travel) and on net earnings in the form of interest, profits and dividends were the main contributions to the reduction in the net surplus on invisibles. An improvement on the Government transfer net deficit was more than offset by an increase in the net deficit on Government services.

PRIVATE SERVICES

Sea Transport

There was a further deterioration in the net position on the sea transport account in 1974. It is estimated that there was a deficit of £170 million compared with one of £122 million in 1973.

The effects of the oil crisis at the end of 1973 (see p 441, 1973 and p 17, 1974) featured prominently in 1974 – mainly in two ways. The reduction in oil production and consumption resulted in a tanker glut and a rapid fall in charter rates. At the same time the large increase in the price of oil and, hence, bunker fuel meant much higher operating costs, particularly for the faster liner and container vessels. In addition, while tanker rates, particularly for the larger vessels, fell dramatically, dry cargo rates remained steady reflecting the expanding volume of world trade in most raw materials and finished products. However, from about the middle of 1974 rates for large bulk carriers were forced down under competition from combination carriers.[2] There was little overall expansion in the British-owned and registered dry cargo fleet during 1974 though several new and large bulk carriers were delivered. On the other hand the tanker fleet continued to expand rapidly with a number of very large crude carriers being delivered and, despite the generally depressed state of the tanker market, the revenue of British operators remained steady as some rates were secured that had been fixed at the particularly high levels obtaining prior to the oil crisis.

When the net contributions of ships owned by British operators, ships on charter to them and ships operated by overseas owners are separated, it is seen that the net earnings of British-owned ships were £789 million, 31 per cent higher than in 1973. This was due largely to appreciable rises (which had also occurred in 1973) in the earnings of both dry cargo vessels and tankers, particularly in cross-trades (that is, non-British trades) and in the charter markets. Net payments for ships (mainly tankers) chartered by British operators stood at £328 million, 40 per cent more than in 1973. The earnings of chartered-in ships increased by less than 10 per cent in 1974 but their disbursements abroad rose more rapidly, particularly payments for bunkers for voyage-chartered ships. At the same time net payments to overseas owners for ships operated by them rose by 28 per cent. Freight payments to overseas operators for carrying British imports rose by 32 per cent as a result of further, large increases in liner rates and the comparatively small (10 per cent) increase in the earnings of British operators from carrying British imports. As in 1973, therefore, the improvement in the net earnings of British-owned ships in 1974 was outweighed by additional net payments to overseas owners for the services of ships operated by them and for ships chartered from them by British operators.

The net deficit on the sea transport account was £11 million greater in the first half of 1975 than in the first half of 1974. Tanker rates remained depressed while dry cargo rates fell quite rapidly in the first half of 1975. Demand for liner shipping services was also reduced but operating costs continued to escalate.

Civil Aviation

British airlines' earnings in foreign currency in 1974, at £451 million, were 26 per cent higher than in 1973. About three-quarters of this revenue came from the carriage of overseas residents. Earnings from freight on exports rose by £13 million to £71 million in 1974 and other earnings rose by £14 million to £35 million. Expenditure overseas by British airlines increased by 37 per cent between 1973 and 1974 to £290 million. The resulting net balance for British airlines was, at £161 million, some 9 per cent higher than in 1973. The growth in payments made to overseas airlines by British residents, 30 per cent in 1974, was similar to that of 1973; such payments stood at £271 million in 1974 compared with £209 million in 1973. Overseas airlines' expenditure in Britain rose by 38 per cent to £168 million in 1974. The resultant increase of £16 million in the net earnings of overseas airlines from British residents was slightly more than the increase of £13 million in British airlines' earnings, and the net civil aviation balance fell from £61 million in 1973 to £58 million in 1974. The net surplus in the first half of 1975, £74 million, was, however, £34 million greater than that for the same period in 1974.

Travel

The travel account showed a large surplus of £151

1 *Trade and Industry*. 17 October. HMSO, 20p. ISBN 0 11 724226 8.

2 Ships which can be used for transporting either oil or dry cargoes.

Invisibles

£ million

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1974† 1st half	1974† 2nd half	1975† 1st half
Credits							
Private* services:							
Sea transport	1,615	1,606	2,052	2,621	1,302	1,319	1,274
Civil aviation	354	410	481	619	295	324	369
Travel	486	546	681	833	395	438	537
Other services	1,319	1,465	1,753	2,152	1,042	1,110	1,139
Total private* services	3,774	4,027	4,967	6,225	3,034	3,191	3,319
Interest, profits and dividends	1,481	1,762	2,898	3,171	1,599	1,572	1,659
Transfers:							
Private	215	231	295	355	170	185	195
Government	—	—	63	130	50	80	184
Government services	59	72	80	94	50	44	56
Total credits	5,529	6,092	8,303	9,975	4,903	5,072	5,413
Debits							
Private* services:							
Sea transport	1,672	1,687	2,174	2,791	1,380	1,411	1,363
Civil aviation	309	346	420	561	274	287	314
Travel	439	527	682	682	319	363	421
Other services	559	608	738	1,006	453	553	637
Total private* services	2,979	3,168	4,014	5,040	2,426	2,614	2,735
Interest, profits and dividends	970	1,182	1,502	1,819	918	901	1,060
Transfers:							
Private	228	288	386	446	205	241	232
Government	205	208	423	451	214	237	318
Government services	381	428	518	653	325	328	372
Total debits	4,763	5,274	6,843	8,409	4,088	4,321	4,717
Net Invisible Balance	+766	+818	+1,460	+1,566	+815	+751	+696

† Including public corporations

* Seasonally adjusted

million in 1974 compared with a virtual balance in 1973 and smaller surpluses in the two previous years. Earnings from overseas visitors increased by 22 per cent, but as the total number of nights they spent in Britain rose by less than 1 per cent, the rise in earnings was due almost entirely to a large increase in average expenditure, reflecting price inflation in Britain. A significant drop of 15 per cent in numbers of visitors from the United States of America was compensated for by the general increase from other countries, among which Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany were particularly prominent.

The unchanged expenditure by British residents going abroad was brought about by a 9 per cent reduction in numbers and a 12 per cent reduction in visitor-nights offsetting an increase in average expenditure. Travel abroad in 1974 was affected by the three-day week (see pp 16, 67, 84, 1974), the increase in fuel costs and the failure of certain travel companies.

Estimates for the first and second quarters of 1975 show an increased volume of travel with credits and debits rising at similar rates, resulting in a net surplus of £116 million compared with £67 million in 1974.

Other Services

The category 'other services' includes a wide-ranging group of items including financial and technical services, commissions and royalties. Credits rose by 23 per cent between 1973 and 1974, a faster rate of growth than between 1972 and 1973. The rise in debits of 36 per cent was also higher than in previous years, but the net surplus of credits over debits rose by 13 per cent to £1,146 million. The rise in credits continued into 1975 with a rise of 9 per cent between the first half of 1974 and the first half of 1975, but since debits rose by 41 per cent between the same two periods, the net surplus in the first half of 1975 was 15 per cent lower than in the first half of 1974.

One of the most buoyant sectors within 'other services' has been the earnings on financial services.

The four main classes of financial and allied services are banking, merchanting, brokerage and insurance.[1]

Earnings of all classes increased, with the increase of 61 per cent in brokerage earnings being particularly strong. Other notable changes from 1973 within 'other services' were the rise in earnings from commissions on imports by 35 per cent to £378 million and the rise in the earnings on construction work abroad by 24 per cent to £172 million. There was also a fast-growing expenditure on services associated with British Continental Shelf activities.

INTEREST, PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

The net surplus on earnings from interest, profits and dividends fell to £1,352 million in 1974, having more than doubled between 1972 and 1973. This fall continued in the first half of 1975 when the net surplus was £599 million compared with £681 million in the first half of 1974. Earnings on direct investment abroad (excluding oil) are estimated to have risen by only 6 per cent between 1973 and 1974 following an increase of 59 per cent between 1972 and 1973. Earnings have continued to increase in the first half of 1975, being some 5 per cent higher than in the first half of 1974.

Earnings on foreign direct investments in Britain (excluding oil and insurance) fell by 7 per cent between 1973 and 1974, compared with an increase of 25 per cent between 1972 and 1973. Earnings continued to fall in the first half of 1975, being some 13 per cent less than those in the first half of 1974, due partly to the depressed situation of the British motor industry. The net deficit from earnings on portfolio investments was £4 million compared with a surplus of £5 million between 1972 and 1973, credits being £40 million higher and debits £49 million higher than in 1973. Credits on other investments (which include the earnings of oil companies, receipts of interest on inter-governmental loans and trade credits) rose by 12 per cent between 1973 and 1974, having more than doubled between 1972 and 1973. Debits on other investments rose by 47 per cent between 1973 and 1974 because of higher interest rates and the growing impact of interest paid on public sector borrowing from abroad. Total debits on other investments were 30 per cent higher in the first half of 1975 compared with the first half of 1974.

Analysing interest, profits and dividends between private and public sector transactions, it is seen that the net public sector deficit rose from £195 million to £356 million between 1973 and 1974 and has continued to rise during the first half of 1975, being some £116 million higher than in the first half of 1974. At the same time, the net private sector surplus rose in 1974 to £1,708 million and has continued to rise in the first half of 1975, being, at £885 million, £34 million higher than in the first half of 1974.

[1] The insurance figures in 'other services' cover only business written within Britain and exclude all the overseas earnings of insurers, part of which (the earnings of overseas branches and subsidiary companies of British insurance companies and receipts of interest and dividends by the Corporation of Lloyd's and by companies on holdings of foreign securities) appear under 'interest, profits and dividends'.

British Construction Overseas

BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

Some 80 British building and civil engineering firms won new contracts overseas valued at an estimated £980 million in the year ended 31 March 1975, according to figures issued by the Department of the Environment (*Trade and Industry*, 17 October 1975). The value of contracts thus reached a record level, representing an increase of £452 million (86 per cent) over the peak of £528 million obtained in 1973-74. British firms were active in 106 countries.

When the overseas earnings of the related professions of consulting engineers, architects and surveyors are included, with the £69 million of earnings from the direct investment of British construction companies in their overseas branches and subsidiaries, the total net contribution by the construction industry to Britain's balance of payments in 1974-75 exceeded £200 million.

As in previous years the main contracts were won by comparatively few firms with well-established overseas interests; over 96 per cent of the total value was obtained by 20 firms, with the top six accounting for 68 per cent of all contracts.

The record level of new contracts was dominated by the large contracts won in Asia, which totalled £504 million, accounting for 51 per cent of the world total, compared with £225 million in 1973-74 (43 per cent of the world total). The Middle Eastern countries (largely in Asia) accounted for £477 million of the total. There was also a large increase in the value of new contracts obtained in Europe, where a record level of £161 million was achieved. The European Community countries accounted for £38 million of this against £8 million in 1973-74. The value of new contracts obtained during 1974-75 also rose in Africa by £62 million to £174 million; and in North and South America by £18 million to £72 million. In Oceania, the value of new contracts fell from £75 million to £69 million.

Details of some major contracts follow (see also table on p 441).

Europe

Laing Iberica, a member company of the Laing Group, has been awarded four contracts worth £10 million for building work in Spain. The largest, £3·5 million, covers a social security hospital at Avila for the National Institute of Planning. Additional offices for Spanish naval staff in Madrid are to be built by the company under a £3·3 million contract. Also in Madrid the company is to undertake a housing project as a £2·3 million contract for the Ministry of Education and Science and an extension to the San Fernando College, worth £880,000.

George Wimpey and Co Ltd, has signed an agreement with Interco-operation, of Budapest, for the construction of 24,000 dwellings on the shores of Lake Balaton, Hungary, during the next ten years. The site operations will be carried out by the Hungarian building co-operatives under Wimpey supervision. In France, nearly £2 million of contracts were agreed during the year and road construction by Wimpey Asphalt-Chantiers Modernes SA has progressed.

McCann Ltd, Dublin, a subsidiary of the British firm Balfour Kilpatrick Installations, has been awarded a £120,000 contract for electrical installation in the new office development at Sean Lermass House in Dublin.

Africa

British Insulated Callender's Construction Co Ltd, a member of the Balfour Beatty Group of BICC, has received an order from the National Electric Power Authority of Nigeria for the design, supply and erection of Section A of the Kainji-Niamey Transmission Project. The project will form a power link between Kainji Dam and Niamey, the capital of the Republic of Niger, and also between Kainji and Sokoto, in north-western Nigeria. BIC Construction Ltd has also been awarded a contract exceeding £2 million for the installation of 600 miles of coaxial telephone cable between Lagos and Kaduna by the Furukawa Electric Company.

Costain West Africa Ltd has been awarded two contracts with a total value of £13 million by the North-Western State of Nigeria. In Sokoto, Costain is increasing its business in an expanding road-building programme with the Mainchi-Daki Takwas road. Work on the £7·2 million contract began in November 1974. The second contract, worth £5·8 million, is for an extension to the Sokoto water supply scheme.

Taylor Woodrow of Nigeria Ltd has received several contracts in the year under review. A contract valued at £5 million was awarded by the Kano Metropolitan Planning and Development Board for the reconstruction of roads in the central area of Kano in northern Nigeria. The company also won a contract valued at £2 million for the construction of a television studio for the Kano State Government, northern Nigeria, and a contract valued at £1·1 million for the design and construction of a chipboard factory in Ikorudu, Nigeria. The contract includes site clearance and main factory foundations. The factory building will be designed, supplied and erected by Taylor Woodrow (Building Exports) Ltd under a separate contract valued at £625,000.

Taylor Woodrow International Ltd has been awarded a contract valued at approximately £6·4 million by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Ghana, for the construction of the Tono Irrigation Project covering some 6,000 acres (2,428 hectares) bordering the River Tono in the upper region of Ghana.

George Wimpey and Co (Nigeria) Ltd has begun a contract for a large extension to Michelin's tyre factory in Port Harcourt, and work is progressing towards completion of the new market in the city.

The Middle East

Most of the new contracts obtained were again attributable to the Asiatic Middle East.

The Bath and Portland Group Ltd, through its subsidiary, Marples Ridgeway, has negotiated a £46 million contract with the Ministry of Roads and Transportation of the Imperial Government of Iran. The contract is for the construction of 300 kilometres (km) of class 1 highway in south-east Iran, from Shurgaz through Zahedan to the Pakistan border.

Laing Wimpey Alireza (a joint venture of John Laing Construction, George Wimpey and Co Ltd and Haji Abdullah Alireza and Co) has been awarded a contract by the Civil Aviation Department of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the first phase of the construction of a complete new airport at Abha in the southern part of the country. The contract is valued at £20 million and will embrace construction of a 3,300-metre (m) runway, parking apron, airfield approach lighting and terminal buildings of a total area of 10,600 square metres.

In Muscat and Oman, George Wimpey and Co Ltd has won £34 million worth of new contracts including several building contracts, an hotel and a major highway 110 km long. In a joint venture, Alfuttaim Wimpey, in Dubai, has obtained orders for an additional bridge at Al Bustan, valued at £4·3 million and the reconstruction of the Suq Wharf valued at £2·9 million.

Bernard Sunley and Sons Ltd has been awarded a contract valued at £18 million to build a 600-bed general hospital at Doha, Qatar.

Cementation International, the overseas construction wing of the Trafalgar House Group, has won a contract worth over £14 million in Oman. It comprises stage 1 of a new town to be known as Greater Mutrah and consists of building the entire infrastructure over the next two and a half years.

A £5 million contract to build a series of 19 power stations with related administration and accommodation buildings in rural areas of Oman has been awarded to the newly formed Tarmac International Ltd by the Ministry of Communications and Public Services of Oman. The same company was also awarded a contract by the Ruler of Sharjah for a drainage scheme which includes the laying of approximately 36 km of asbestos/cement pipes, the construction of two sewage pumping stations within the town of Sharjah and a treatment works some 3 km out in the desert. In Bahrain, the company, in association with a local contractor, has won a contract to extend the Jumbo Jet airport apron built for the Ministry of Development and Engineering Services in 1970.

A further port extension at Beirut, Lebanon, valued at approximately £6·5 million, has been awarded to the joint venture of Taylor Woodrow International Ltd and the Société Nationale d'Enterprises, of Beirut. With an earlier extension currently in progress, this brings to £9 million the value of work in hand by the joint venture for the Compagnie de Gestion et d'Exploitation du Port de Beyrouth and the Commission d'Extension et de Promotion du Port de Beyrouth. The new work comprises the extension of the breakwater by 500 m, and the construction of a quay wall 450 m long, with associated dredging, and a new construction service harbour.

Foundation Engineering, part of Richard Costain Ltd, has received two site investigation contracts in the Middle East with a total value of approximately £156,000. One contract valued at £70,000 is for a dry dock scheme at Dubai, the other, valued at some £86,000, is for an investigation for a deep-water channel at Umm al Qawain.

North and South America and the Western Hemisphere

Tarmac Construction Ltd is leading an international consortium for the construction of the first stage of

Construction Work
Years ended 31 March

£ million

Area	Total value of contracts obtained		Total value of work done		Total value of work outstanding	
	1974*	1975†	1974*	1975†	1974*	1975†
Europe	62	161	57	69	77	164
of which European Community	8	38	11	18	15	35
Asia	225	504	78	131	216	587
Africa	112	174	86	87	111	197
N. & S. America and the Western Hemisphere	54	72	62	53	33	54
Oceania	75	69	57	55	121	133
Total	528	980	340	395	558	1,135

* Revised

† Provisional

the Majes Project in Peru, currently valued at approximately US $200 million (£100 million). The project is an irrigation scheme within 150 km radius of Arequipa in southern Peru and will impound and divert the waters of the River Colca into the River Siguas from whence water will be distributed for spray irrigation of the arid plain of Majes. Also in Peru, George Wimpey and Co Ltd has won a contract valued at £8 million for a marine pipeline terminal at Bayovar.

Woodall-Duckham (USA) Ltd has been awarded a contract valued at £6 million by the Kerr McGee Chemical Corporation to build an acid regeneration plant near Mobile, Alabama.

Watsham's Ltd has received a contract from the Commission Ejecutiva Hidroelectricia Del Rio Lempa for a new substation at Cerron Grande in El Salvador and an extension to an existing substation at Nejapa, which is being built by the company under a previous contract. The contract is valued at £118,000.

Higgs and Hill Ltd, currently carrying out extensive work on the island of St Kitts, has been awarded a further contract valued at £250,000 by the Government of St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla. The new work is to be carried out on seven miles of roadway on the island of Nevis.

Rest of the World

Taylor Woodrow International Ltd has started work on the first £2·25 million phase of Subang Jaya new town, Selangor, west Malaysia. The first phase consists of 344 homes ranging from single-storey to four-storey units and including shops and flats, together with services.

THE CONSULTANT PROFESSIONS

The three main professional organisations representing British consulting engineers, architects and surveyors reported in 1975 on their activities overseas and stressed the vital role of consultants in earning overseas currency.

Consulting Engineers

Members of the Association of Consulting Engineers had work in hand at the beginning of 1975 with a total value, in countries abroad alone, of over £7,000 million.

Water

Throughout the Middle East, developments have continued to expand, particularly in the towns and cities. In Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia, the growth of the community has necessitated a new water supply scheme. The water level of the sandstone aquifer, the main traditional source of supply, has been falling in recent years and Sir M. MacDonald and Partners have the task of preparing a new water supply scheme for the city, by using water much of which is 35,000 years old. Wells have been drilled since 1973 to depths varying between 400 and 800 metres, followed by intensive pump testing. These investigations have shown the presence of fossil water in considerable quantities which is still usable. Also in Saudi Arabia, John Taylor and Sons are engaged on a complete waterborne system for foul sewerage collection and treatment and a comprehensive storm water disposal scheme for three separate towns. The total value of the schemes is £50 million.

Communications

Preece Cardew and Rider are engaged on one of the largest single microwave projects ever contemplated, in Saudi Arabia. The intra-Kingdom microwave network Phase 3 (speech and television communications) involves two medium-wave broadcasting complexes with two medium-wave transmitters and highly directional antennae with communication links between Riyadh and the stations. In southern Saudi Arabia the same firm has designed a combined television complex which includes studio and transmission facilities.

In physical communications BMMK and Partners are engaged on the construction of the 500 km rural highway from Riyadh to Zalim. Started in October 1973, the road is scheduled for completion

in mid-1979 and it will considerably shorten the east-west journey for the annual pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Food Supplies

In West Africa, Howard Humphreys and Sons have been concerned with the production of cane sugar planned by the Ivory Coast Government, initially to meet the home demand. The firm has designed and supervised the civil engineering infrastructure. This included the Bandama Dam, the irrigation system, estate roads, bridges, earthworks for 10 km of railway, a 30-kV electricity distribution system and estate housing for 10,000 people with water supplies, draining and low voltage electricity distribution. The firm has also been engaged for a somewhat similar but much larger comprehensive sugar estate project near Kosti on the White Nile, south of Khartoum.

Sir M. MacDonald and Partners are engaged on irrigation projects in Indonesia, Jordan, Mauritius, Nigeria and Somalia, besides three in Bangladesh, Sudan and Iraq which together will irrigate about 250,000 hectares and cost over £200 million.

A new sewerage system in Dubai will enable treated sewage and sludge to be used as soil conditioner for agricultural development. The new system is to cost £20 million and is being built in phases. It is designed ultimately to serve a population of 200,000 and is in the hands of J. D. and D. M. Watson.

Tourism

John Burrows and Partners are participating in a variety of civil and structural engineering projects associated with national development plans of the Governments of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Botswana and which together form a large part of the current overseas practice. Projects in various stages of completion include highways, airports, bridges, various other buildings and town planning. Two projects in Zambia are of particular interest – an infrastructure development in the Luangwa Valley, Eastern Province, and a proposed new two-lane road in the Western Province from Limulunga to Senanga. The development in Luangwa incorporates an airport to accommodate medium- and short-haul jet aircraft with the principal object of serving tourist traffic to and from Luangwa Valley Game Park. The airport forms part of a long-term comprehensive infrastructure development involving hotels, roads and bridges undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Zambia with a view to acquiring a larger share of the tourist trade to Africa.

Flyovers, Roads, Bridges and Railways

Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick and Partners are engaged on the design of the Maryland Flyover, in Lagos, Nigeria. The Hong Kong practice of the same firm has been appointed for the third International Bank for Reconstruction and Development highway project in the Philippines.

Mott Hay and Anderson are designing two bridges over the Palang River in west Malaysia. The first bridge will replace the existing ferry at Jerantut and will have a total length of 407 m. The second, at Kuala Lepar, will carry the proposed Segamat-Kuantan highway over the river on a bridge of 695 m length. The same firm with Hatch Associates Ltd and Jacob Associates, of San Francisco, were appointed in 1971 to carry out an overall project planning study on the construction and equipping of the Melbourne underground railway loop in Australia. The consulting group was subsequently instructed to proceed with the design and supervision of construction of civil engineering works (outside existing railways property), comprising four tunnels, three underground stations and a two-track viaduct. The construction is now fully under way and scheduled for completion in 1978 at a cost in excess of $100 million (Australian) (approximately £61·7 million).

Steel

What is believed to be the most valuable commission ever let to an independent engineering consultancy is the El Hadjar steel project in Algeria, the total cost of which is estimated to be approximately £300 million. It is one of several major metallurgical projects secured by W. S. Atkins and Partners. The aim of the project is to increase the liquid steel output of the El Hadjar Iron and Steel Works from the present 400,000 tonnes a year to 2 million tonnes a year, and it is estimated that it will earn the firm some £25 million over the next five years. The same firm is also involved in civil and structural engineering projects. It is, for example, engaged on the Faculty of Medicine building at the University of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, the Ko-Ri nuclear power station in South Korea, a cement plant in Iran and a magnetite study in Norway, as well as a rapidly increasing stream of research, development and inspection work throughout the world.

Architects

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) reports that the Middle East remains the focus of attention for many British architectural practices working overseas. In particular Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States have been the scenes of considerable activity by British firms. In Saudi Arabia, a consortium of British and Middle East consultants, including the London-based Architects Co-Partnership, for example, are designing and preparing production information for a series of eight standard hospital types ranging from 50 to 400 beds, as well as a residential health training institute. A detailed programme for this project was established with completion of all standard documents in July 1975. It is understood that 97 hospitals are envisaged within the current five-year plan, making the value of the project £2,000 million.

Another major health project in Saudi Arabia is being developed by Abbey Hanson Rowe and Partners. This scheme is for a complex to house 3,500 handicapped children together with the necessary teachers and supporting staff. The complex includes a sports centre, swimming pool, vocational training facilities and a mosque.

A project just completed in Saudi Arabia is a conference centre and hotel at Riyadh by Trevor Dannatt and Partners. The centre seats 1,400 and has full technical facilities. A comparable project is the Dubai International Trade and Exhibition Centre now under construction at a cost of £56 million. The centre was designed by John R.

Harris, in association with John R. Harris and Partners, Dubai. The same practice has a number of other important projects in Dubai including the recently completed Rashid Hospital and a further 250-bed hospital and health centre. John Harris projects in other parts of the Middle East include hospitals in Iran, a British Embassy residency in Abu Dhabi, administrative buildings and laboratories for the Abu Dhabi Oil Refinery and a multi-use cantonment in the Oman.

Wilson Mason and Partners are engaged on a major housing development on Das Island for Abu Dhabi Marine Areas, the value of which is in the region of £15 million, while Challen Floyd Slaski Tod are building a new hospital for the Lebanon Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders.

The firm of TRIAD, which has offices in Doha, Muscat and Nairobi, is engaged on a national theatre complex in Doha which will also house the Ministry of Information and an arts centre; a hostel for 300 boys which includes a mosque, library and administrative offices; and a senior staff club for Government officials.

Other job prospects in Doha include a military sports complex and a General Headquarters building for the army.

Raglan Squire and Partners are currently working on the Hilton and Ramada hotels in Bahrain and the Hilton Jakarta. The same practice is engaged on the El Panama Hotel, with an associated office, shopping, and air terminal complex in Panama in Central America.

Norman and Dawbarn Associates are involved in three major university schemes in Dar es Salaam, Malawi and Malta. In Egypt, Clifford Culpin and Partners, with an international consortium, have been selected and appointed to carry out a study of Ismailia in the Suez Canal zone. The study area of some 50,000 sq km is to prepare a master plan for Ismailia city and surrounding areas.

Surveyors

The report of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) notes that, like many other professions, it has been considerably influenced during the year by the growing role of the Middle East in overseas consultancy work. Chartered quantity surveyors in particular have undertaken an increasing amount of cost analysis and contract work in projects in that area. On a smaller scale, land surveyors have kept up the growing momentum of their pipeline and other survey work, and there have been modest but increasing signs of interest in the work of the valuation surveyor in certain developments in the area.

Chartered quantity surveyors have been involved in a number of projects in the Gulf. One firm carried out work on the new trade centre in Dubai and another has been involved (in association with Spanish architects) on the new Kuwait University and Medical Project. Other examples of projects on which the profession has been working are a large power station and an hotel in Bahrain, and hospitals in Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Quantity surveyors have also been involved in petrochemicals work both offshore (as in Iraq) and onshore (as in the Gulf). As for future projects, one firm has submitted proposals for work on over 400 km of roads, and a similar length of railway in Iran, a military installation in Oman, and hospitals and an office block in Saudi Arabia.

In Europe the RICS Continental Group (EEC) set up in 1973 (see p 487, 1974) had 222 members in February 1975, 74 of whom were chartered quantity surveyors. Chartered quantity surveyors worked on office blocks, hotels and other buildings in Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and Frankfurt. They also worked on the European Community's new building for the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg.

In Canada, one firm has taken over the project management of the Olympic Village in association with Canadian and French architects while in the United States another firm has worked on a naval hospital in Washington, civilian hospitals in Georgia and Omaha and rapid transit systems in Washington and Atlanta.

In Africa, one firm has produced pre-contract documents for television studios in Nigeria, while another has carried out work on a university in Nsuku, also in Nigeria. In the Far East one firm has completed pre-contract documents for the Fiji Government for work on a hospital while many others have been occupied in Singapore and Malaysia, Indonesia, too, has attracted surveying firms, for example, one is working on the construction of an hotel in Djakarta.

Awards to Industry

The Review Committee appointed by the Prime Minister in November 1974, under the chairmanship of the Duke of Edinburgh, to examine The Queen's Award to Industry Scheme (see p 498, 1974), published its report on 6 October.[1] The Queen has approved the changes to the scheme which have been recommended by the committee and accepted by the Government in full. In drawing up its report the committee took into account the views submitted by 118 trade associations, firms and others who had responded to the Prime Minister's invitation for those interested to put forward their views and suggestions about the scheme, as well as the views of various Government offices concerned and of commercial posts in principal export markets.

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology

The committee concluded that the scheme (established in 1965) served a useful purpose and should be retained; British industry continued to attach importance to it and it had proved successful as a morale-booster at all levels in firms which won awards, lending them honour and distinction while obtaining for them the benefits of national and local publicity. It had helped to promote an awareness of the importance of exports and technological innovation on the part of management and employees engaged in research, development, production and marketing. Since 1971 the average level

[1] *The Queen's Award to Industry: Report of the 1975 Review Committee.* HMSO, 70p. ISBN 0 11 511200 6.

of applications for the award had been over 1,100 a year.

On the recommendation of the committee, the scheme is in future to be known as The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology. There will be two separate classifications for awards – export achievement and technological achievement. The committee recommended that the scheme should continue to be confined to outstanding achievement in these two fields, since any extension to cover other types of achievement, such as the conservation of energy resources, protection of the environment, the quality of investment strategy, good industrial relations and so on, would be very difficult to assess objectively. The areas currently covered were of the highest importance to the economy.

Two changes were proposed in the range of those eligible for the award. Indirect exporters, such as manufacturers of marine engines, aircraft instrumentation and other major components, who themselves undertake overseas promotion of their product which is then incorporated into the finished export of another manufacturer, who concludes the export contract, should be recognised under the award scheme. Agents instrumental in developing a substantial volume of export business on behalf of British manufacturers should also become eligible in respect of their export sales commissions. In addition, the committee felt that greater flexibility should be introduced into the arrangements for dealing with exporters in the invisible sector and the operation of these new arrangements should be kept under review. This would apply equally to the shipping industry.

The committee also held that in assessing achievement special care should be taken to protect the interests of the established exporter who maintained a consistently high standard of export success and who therefore found it difficult to show a further dramatic percentage increase in exports. In practice, the percentage increase recorded by award winners had tended to become progressively higher: no winner since 1972 had shown an increase of less than 25 per cent and since 1971 a growing percentage of winners had recorded increases of over 50 per cent. In 1974 some 93 per cent of award winners achieved increases of over 50 per cent in their exports and nearly 75 per cent of winners recorded increases of over 100 per cent. The small exporting firm was able to compete successfully under the scheme with the larger organisations.

The committee recommended that further consideration should be given to the possibility of mounting an exhibition of award-winning firms, to increase publicity for the scheme and public interest in it. On the proposal that an Association of Queen's Award Holders, analogous to the Royal Warrant Holders' Association,[1] should be established, the committee suggested that the award holders should be consulted to see if there were sufficient support for the idea.

In conclusion, the committee recommended that a further review should be held not later than 1980, to ensure that the scheme's purpose and objectives remained relevant to changing circumstances. (The Queen's Award to Industry Scheme was previously reviewed by a committee in 1970.)

[1] Founded in 1840; an association to which most of the 1,000 or so royal warrant holders belong. A royal warrant in this sense is an authorisation for a trader to act in a particular capacity for a member of the royal family. It has no legal force.

Awards for Small Firms

Details were announced on 14 October of the 1976 export award for smaller manufacturers, which runs in parallel with the Queen's Award to Industry and is jointly sponsored by the Government through the British Overseas Trade Board, British Airways (which contributes prize holidays), the Association of British Chambers of Commerce (which administers the competition), the Confederation of British Industry and the Association of Independent Businesses. The awards are given for the best export record of any manufacturing company or group of companies employing fewer than 200 people whose exports exceeded £50,000 in the year ended 31 March 1974 and £100,000 in the year ended 31 March 1975. The achievement of staff as well as management is recognised; the award is the only one in which the main prize goes to the employees.

Offshore Oil and Gas

THE QUEEN INAUGURATES SUPPLIES FROM FORTIES FIELD

Oil production from the Forties field of British Petroleum (BP) was officially inaugurated by the Queen at Dyce, near Aberdeen, on 3 November, by which date oil had filled the pipeline connecting the field to the refinery at Grangemouth. (See *Britain and Offshore Oil and Gas*, COI, Factel No 661.)

Forties Field

The Forties field, believed to be one of the largest offshore oilfields in the world, is an oval structure covering about 32 square miles (83 square kilometres) mainly in BP's block 21/10 (see map, p 203), although a small part is in Shell/Esso's block 22/6a. The estimated total cost of development is £745 million. Production – the flow at the time of the official inauguration was said to be worth about £28 a second to the British economy – is expected to build up rapidly over the next two to three years so that by 1978 it will amount to about 20 million tons supplying about one-quarter of Britain's oil needs. A small quantity of associated gas will be brought ashore in solution in the oil and separated out at Grangemouth. This gas will initially be used by BP as a refinery fuel and later, in 1977, sold to British Gas under a short-term contract. Oil from the Forties field will be followed by that from the Mobil Beryl and Shell-Esso Auk fields and the British sector of the North Sea as a whole may well be producing oil at least equal to Britain's total demand by the 1980s. Although substantial amounts of crude oil will still be imported for technical and economic reasons, in that decade Britain could be a net exporter of oil.

British Enterprise

The Forties field has been developed by a British enterprise, British Petroleum, a company in which the Government has a 48 per cent shareholding. Maximum use has been made of British offshore marine science and technology (see *Marine Science and Technology*, COI, NST 48) and some 60 per cent of the materials and equipment employed has been made in Britain. A technological capability is thus being rapidly built up in the United Kingdom for use in other parts of the world interested in offshore oil, gas and mineral development, which in themselves could represent valuable export markets. Four steel production platforms, all built in Britain, have been installed on the field and production drilling from the first of these began in June 1975. The platforms have been constructed to cater for severe weather conditions and are able to withstand waves of 94 feet (29 metres) and winds of 130 mph (209 km/h). They are 550 feet (168 metres) high to the top deck and stand in over 400 feet (122 metres) of water. A 107-mile (172-kilometre) submarine pipeline links the field to Cruden Bay (Grampian) from where a land pipeline runs 131 miles (211 kilometres) to Grangemouth. Some of the oil will be refined at Grangemouth, while the rest will be sent to a new terminal at Hound Point in the Firth of Forth from where it will be carried by tanker to refineries.

National Water Council

The first annual report of the National Water Council,[1] published on 28 October, covers the first formative year of the industry reorganised under the Water Act 1973 (see p 86, 1973, and *Water Supply*, COI, FSI/17). With its companion reports from the ten Water Authorities it acknowledges the accountability of the industry to the respective Ministers, to Parliament and its Select Committee on Nationalised Industries, and to its consumers.

The chairman, in his foreword, claims that 'a radical transformation of perhaps the most vital public service of all has taken place quickly and efficiently without any faltering in the standard of that service . . .' and that 'the rightness of the basic concept of the hydrological cycle for the structuring of authorities and their activities must be regarded as substantially endorsed even on such short experience'.

The report states in more detail than has hitherto been available the functions and organisation of the National Water Council.

Functions

The National Water Council is a central co-ordinating, consultative and advisory body, with the principal duties of advising Ministers on national policy for water and promoting and assisting the efficient performance by Water Authorities of their functions. The council also has, among other things, responsibilities for training and industrial relations and superannuation.

The report points out that 'in practice the relationship between a constitutionally weak central body and constitutionally strong regional bodies must understandably be somewhat delicate. It has been clearly understood by all concerned that the effectiveness of the council depends on the commitment of all to the necessity and advantage of joint involvement of council and authorities.'

So far, according to the report, the arrangements have worked well.

Organisation

The National Water Council has set up an organisational structure to conform with its statutory duties. These cover advice on water policy; assistance in research and technical development; training and education; the establishment and operation of negotiating machinery covering pay and conditions of employment for the water industry; an information service for the benefit of industry and all other interested parties; the operation of a superannuation scheme; and the necessary administrative services.

Finance

The council's income is derived mainly from the nine Water Authorities in England and the Welsh National Water Development Authority, which together have contributed 63 per cent of the cost of training and education services and 99 per cent of that of general services. Statutory water companies and other water undertakings in England and Wales have contributed 19 per cent of training costs and 1 per cent of general costs; Scottish Water Boards 8 per cent of training costs and the Northern Ireland Water Service 2 per cent of training costs. The balance of income is derived from miscellaneous fees and sales and Government grants of 3 per cent of training costs.

Water Authorities

The chairman points out that, while some advances will depend on capital investment by the Water Authorities, others will depend on improved management. He claimed that the concept of the reorganisation and the early practice are the envy of the international water world. But the council sees urgent and difficult problems of finance and policy ahead. Questions which had been foreseen by the progenitors of the Act, but which were not or could not be properly explored before reorganisation, have now ceased to be long-term and are immediate. Inflation and Britain's general economic condition have pushed them forward.

Capital Investment

Capital investment is currently running at a high level. Much of it is in support of water supply to new housing and industrial developments; and the balance is to produce improvement of polluted water to meet environmental objectives. The financing of these developments is receiving careful study; at present most of the capital spending is financed by borrowing – it may prove to be right to meet more direct from revenue.

[1] *National Water Council. First Annual Report and Accounts 1974/75.* HMSO, £1·75. ISBN 0 904561 03 8.

Charges

The importance of charging policies had been underlined by the Government in its response to the Daniel report on water charges in Wales.[1] Ministers had decided that the charging issue raised there needed to be considered in the wider context of the review of the water industry which they had foreshadowed earlier, and accordingly the start of that process had been brought forward.

In the current national situation great efforts were being made to keep costs down to a minimum, in line with Government policies. But both the council and the authorities were mindful that the services they supplied were essential to public health, and indeed to life itself. Service to the public, secure and safe, was and must always remain the prime objective.

Overseas Aid

A White Paper on overseas aid, published on 29 October, describes the shift in emphasis in Britain's development assistance policies towards a 'poverty-orientated' approach to the problems of world development. Entitled *The Changing Emphasis in British Aid Policies – More Help for the Poorest*,[2] it outlines a three-pronged attack on world poverty aimed at ensuring that the poorest developing countries and the poorest communities therein will benefit most from both British and international aid efforts.

The Needs of the Poorest Countries

The improvement in the living standards of the world's poor, the White Paper stated, was one of the major challenges of our time, and would remain a challenge for at least the rest of this century and perhaps well into the next. Despite the achievements of the national and international development efforts of the last 25 years, many developing countries still faced a number of seemingly intractable problems: large-scale unemployment or under-employment, rapid population growth, food shortages and malnutrition and, increasingly, a polarisation between a small, relatively prosperous, modern sector and a large, very poor and mainly rural, traditional sector. The response to these long-term problems rested largely with the developing countries themselves but, especially for the poorest countries, international assistance on concessional terms was essential to ensure that they achieved some improvement in average living standards in the next generation.

The radical economic changes of the last year or so, the White Paper continued, had seriously eroded the growth prospects of many developing countries. But the developing countries could not be considered as a homogeneous group in terms of their ability to cope with the current situation, and recognition of this diversity had to be reflected in Britain's aid policy. It was the poorest countries, those with *per capita* incomes under $200 (or about £90) representing a third of the world's population, for which the prospects were very bleak indeed. Often poor because of their reliance on agricultural exports which do not benefit strongly from economic growth in industrial countries, these nations, which included the large South Asian countries and a number of smaller countries, mainly in Africa, had not shared in the recent commodity boom. Instead they had experienced large rises in the prices of their required imports of capital goods, raw materials, foods and fertiliser. At the same time droughts, floods and hurricanes had forced some of them to import much larger volumes of foodgrains merely in order to survive. The rise in oil prices alone had involved the most seriously affected countries in very large annual costs and would continue to do so for some years ahead, while their terms of trade had deteriorated seriously, not only from 1973 but also compared with the late 1960s. Furthermore, unlike the better off developing countries, they could not attract or afford to borrow substantial quantities of money at commercial rates. Unless, therefore, concessional aid flows to these particular countries were increased, their average living standard, already very low, would improve only very slightly between now and 1980. At the same time, truly concessional aid was a scarce resource and as such had to be directed to those areas where it would have the most effect in alleviating the worst poverty over the long term.

The New Aid Strategy

In view of this situation, the White Paper pointed out, the British Government had decided to adapt its aid policies to meet the needs of the poorest countries. Its basic objectives now were:

a to give an increasing emphasis in bilateral aid towards the poorest countries, especially those most seriously affected by the rise in the price of oil and other commodities;

b to give a special emphasis to programmes oriented towards the poorest groups within these countries, and especially to rural development; and

c to promote situations in which British concessional aid funds could best serve to stimulate matching contributions from other Governments, and to encourage the deployment of such aid through both multilateral and bilateral channels towards the poorest countries.

In the future, therefore, British aid, other than that provided for the dependent territories and Associated States, whose reasonable needs would remain a first charge on Britain's aid resources, would be more greatly concentrated on those countries with *per capita* incomes of less than $200 and, within that group, on those with worse growth prospects than the average. In so doing, account would be taken of other donors' aid, and whether a country was likely to have other substantial sources of foreign exchange. The Government would also relate the terms of its aid to the economic circumstances of the recipient country, and in this context the White

[1] *Committee of Inquiry into Water Charges in the area of the Welsh National Water Development Authority* [Chairman: Sir Geronwy Daniel]. Welsh Office. HMSO, £1. ISBN 0 11 790060 5.

[2] Cmnd 6720. HMSO, 95p. ISBN 0 10 162700 9.

Paper pointed out that, since mid-1975, bilateral aid commitments to most countries with a *per capita* income of less than $200 were now being made on grant terms. Since then, also, these countries had been eligible to compete with British firms for the supply of goods financed from Britain's remaining bilateral development loans, provided the country receiving the loan so agreed.

The White Paper stressed that, in adopting these policies, Britain had no intention of trying to dictate development policies to the countries it assisted. It would, however, be best able to give the most effective help possible to those Governments which saw the need for, and were trying to implement, policies and programmes directly affecting poverty, employment and income distribution. More directly, it wished to co-operate with recipient Governments to ensure that so far as possible British aid resulted in benefits for the poorest sections of the community.

Rural Development

Most of the poorest people in developing countries, the White Paper pointed out, lived, and for the foreseeable future would continue to live, in rural areas. For this reason, Britain intended to place special emphasis on rural development. This involved 'the improvement of living conditions in rural areas through the increased productivity of agricultural and related enterprises and, if it is to benefit lower income groups, the equitable and fair distribution of the wealth so created taking into account the need to maintain a balance between individual consumption, investment and improvements in communal social services'. The basis for such development lay in increased agricultural production, leading to the generation of cash surpluses to provide cash incomes and finance for improved social and other services. The real challenge, however, was to achieve this in ways which minimised the displacement of labour, so as not to aggravate the serious problems of under-employment which faced most developing countries. Effective rural development also required an integrated approach, with attention being paid to such matters as rural roads, water control, credit facilities, marketing machinery, elementary education and rural health facilities.

It would take time, the White Paper continued, for this new emphasis to be reflected in the composition of the aid programme, the scope and speed with which Britain could increase its rural development programmes being largely dependent on the wishes of the recipient Governments. However, these had been informed of Britain's willingness to help them promote rural development and food production, and ways of assisting international agencies with projects already on the stocks were being explored. At the same time, the Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM) was enlarging its capacity to enable it to best offer the assistance which would be required. Already, it had established a Rural Development Department, alongside which had been set up a Steering Group on Rural Development bringing together the ODM's many sources of specialist advice and the operational geographical administrators. It had also strengthened the interdisciplinary National Resources Advisory Group of scientists and specialists in the rural field. Other steps which had been taken, or were under consideration, included the establishment of the Agricultural Extension and Rural Development Centre at Reading University, support for a joint Overseas Development Institute and Reading University research programme on change in agriculture, the joint financing of projects in this field with British voluntary societies, and increased investment by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (see pp 264-6) in agricultural projects.

Other Main Sectors

Poverty-orientated programmes also called for action in other sectors. Indeed, the White Paper emphasised, unless people could see and experience the social benefits of development their willingness to co-operate in increasing agricultural production could be undermined. Britain was ready to assist developing countries to provide these benefits. In education, for instance, rather than support prestige university projects, it was anxious to aid programmes for basic education, such as functional literacy, numeracy, home economics, community participation, etc; and, as this developed, to foster the teaching and development of appropriate technical skills through 'learning' centres in the villages, through village-level workers and by radio, correspondence and even by television where this was appropriate. Similarly, with regard to housing problems, Britain intended to concentrate on assisting communal 'site and service' projects which encouraged self-help, and which were more suited than traditional low-cost housing schemes for aiding the poorest sections of the community. In the health field, Britain's medical aid programme was increasingly being devoted to community health and preventative health schemes in rural areas, rather than to large hospitals and specialist curative services; while in medical research, special emphasis was being placed on research into preventative measures and the development of cheap and simple methods of treatment, with the object of achieving the highest possible level of community health through methods appropriate to the conditions where the mass of people lived. Britain also recognised that there was a close link between family planning and other aspects of development – the raising of living standards and personal economic security appearing to be necessary prerequisites of a successful family planning programme – and was taking account of this in its population aid policies.

World Food and Fertilisers

With regard to the special problem of food production, the White Paper stated that, whatever rural or urban development schemes achieved in improving living standards and social services, the basic need of the poor was for sufficient and adequate nutritious food. In the long term, most of this need could only be met from domestic production within the developing countries themselves. Therefore, although in the short term an important emphasis for external aid donors must be on food aid, the focus of attention in both the short and longer terms must be on increased agricultural production in these countries and on the resources needed for this.

The British Government, therefore, was concerned to do all it could to help developing countries in their efforts to maximise local food production and pro-

vide for its equitable distribution. To this end, Britain was supporting relevant research in Britain and internationally through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, exploring methods of helping agricultural investment through multilateral agencies such as the International Development Association and the recently established Consultative Group on Food Production and Investment in Developing Countries, and fostering rural development (see p 447). In addition, in the key area of fertiliser supply, Britain had supplied 25,000 tons through the International Fertiliser Supply Scheme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and recently promised another 100,000 tons, as well as having provided 146,000 tons to India and 10,000 tons to Bangladesh on a bilateral basis. More significantly, it was assisting some developing countries. including India and Bangladesh, to create or improve their own sources of fertiliser supply by providing finance for the construction of fertiliser plants (see pp 22 and 111).

Turning to the question of food aid, the White Paper stated that while Britain did not believe that such aid was a desirable alternative to aid for increasing local food production, it recognised that, in the present circumstances, many millions could starve without it. In 1974-75, therefore, the British Government had spent some £25 million on food aid, and in 1975-76 about £35 million had been earmarked for this purpose. Of the latter, £27 million represented Britain's share of existing European Community food aid programmes, about £4 million was for proposed increases in these programmes, and another £4 million for contributions to the World Food Programme.

International Co-operation

In line with its new development assistance strategy, Britain was supporting a number of recent international efforts designed to channel concessional aid towards the poorest countries. In particular, the White Paper noted, it supported the World Bank's plans for increasing its aid directed towards improving the productive capacity and income of the poorest people in the developing countries, and its establishment of the 'third window' facility for concessional loans (see pp 400-2), to which Britain had agreed to contribute some £4·75 million and possibly more in the future. Britain was also in favour of the proposed Special Trust Fund of the International Monetary Fund for providing additional highly concessional funds to the poorest developing countries; and was anxious to co-operate with oil-rich countries in assisting these countries, possibly through a combination of Arab capital and British technical expertise. Similarly, in the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Development, Britain had urged that 60 per cent of all bilateral official development assistance should go to countries with an average *per capita* income of less than $200 a year, and the adoption of a special target for the terms of aid to these countries. In the European Community, also, Britain was working for a more comprehensive and world-wide Community aid policy. The Convention of Lomé (see pp 51-3) had represented a major step forward in this direction, and Britain was currently urging member states to adopt a proposal of the European Commission for a five-year programme of financial and technical aid for those countries not covered by Lomé.

The Crown Agents

In a statement in the House of Commons on 16 October (*Hansard*, cols 1599-609), the Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Reg Prentice, reaffirmed the Government's support for the Crown Agents and announced its intention to introduce legislation to give them the status of an incorporated public body.

Mr Prentice's Statement

Mr Prentice told the House that the recoverable £85 million grant, which the Government had provided the Crown Agents to cover the writing down of asset values in their 1974 accounts (see p 20), had been insufficient to prevent them entering a technical state of insolvency, the audited accounts having shown that at 31 December 1974 their liabilities exceeded their assets by some £15 million. The Agents, however, had no immediate liquidity problem, having, as yet, had no need to draw on the Government grant or on the standby facilities arranged with the Bank of England. Nevertheless, without Government backing, they would now be in a difficult position, one which could affect the confidence of their principals (that is, clients). He had, therefore, Mr Prentice stated, formally reaffirmed the assurance of Government support given to the Crown Agents in December (see p 20). The Government wished, he emphasised, to see the Agents continue in being because of the valuable services which they could render both to their many principals in the developing world and to Britain's relations with overseas countries.

At the same time, Mr Prentice continued, he was concerned that the future activities of the Crown Agents, and their relations with Ministers, should be on a more closely defined basis. The Government, therefore, had decided to introduce legislation which would confer independent legal personality on the Crown Agents by incorporating them, define their functions for the future, and provide that specified powers of direction should rest with Ministers. This, he explained, would create a well-understood relationship of a kind which existed between a number of bodies in the public sector and the Ministers responsible for them. It would clarify the responsibilities of the Government in exercising a broad oversight over the activities of the Agents, while leaving it to the Crown Agents' board to run their own day-to-day affairs. It would not, however, disturb the traditional relationship between them and their principals. A White Paper, Mr Prentice promised, setting out the Government's view of the provisions which will or may be required in the proposed legislation, would be published in due course.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Social Security

Increases in national insurance contribution rates were announced by Mrs Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, on 23 October (*Hansard,* written answers, cols 236-8). Under the Social Security Act 1975 the Secretary of State is required to review each year the general level of earnings in Great Britain and to consider what changes in contributions need to be made in the light of movements in earnings and other factors.

In her statement Mrs Castle pointed out that social security benefit rates had been increased twice in 1975 (the second increase took effect from 17 November – see pp 243-6) and that the money had to be found to pay for this.

New Contribution Rates

The new contribution rates are as follows and are to take effect from April 1976.

Class 1

Class 1 contributions are paid by people working for an employer. The new weekly contribution will be 5·75 per cent of earnings up to £95 a week provided that these earnings are at least £13 a week. (The present rate is 5·5 per cent of earnings up to £69 a week provided that these earnings are at least £11 a week.) The rate for married women choosing to pay a smaller contribution will remain at 2 per cent but based on the new earnings range. The employer's contribution paid on behalf of the employee will be 8·75 per cent of the new earnings range. (The existing percentage is 8·5 per cent of the old earnings range.)

Classes 2 and 4

Class 2 flat rate contributions are paid by self-employed people. The men's rate will remain at £2·41 but the women's rate will go up from £2·10 to £2·20 a week (the Social Security Act 1975 provides for the equalisation of the two rates over a transitional period). The Class 4 earnings-related contribution payable by the self-employed will remain at 8 per cent but will be chargeable on net profits or gains between £1,600 and £4,900 a year instead of £1,600 to £3,600 as at present.

Class 3

The Class 3 contribution paid voluntarily by contributors wishing to safeguard rights to certain benefits (mainly retirement pension) is increased from £1·90 to £2·10.

National Health Service

ROYAL COMMISSION

A Royal Commission on the National Health Service has been set up 'to consider in the interests both of the patients and of those who work in the National Health Service the best use and management of the financial and manpower resources of the National Health Service'.

Giving details of the Government's decision to the House of Commons on 20 October (*Hansard,* cols 35-45), the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, said that an independent examination of the National Health Service was necessary to see how the service could make the best possible use of the resources allocated to it. Mr Wilson added that the Government's commitment to the phased separation of pay-beds from National Health Service hospitals (see pp 372-3) remained unchanged and that legislation would be introduced once parliamentary time was available. The Government was equally committed to the maintenance of private medical practice and intended to guarantee this in the proposed legislation. The Royal Commission would be free to consider important questions 'touching on the borderline between the National Health Service and private practice, and on the important and continuing contribution which we expect and want private practice to make . . . '.

The membership of the Royal Commission will be announced at a later date.

MATERNAL DEATHS

Figures published by the Department of Health and Social Security[1] show a continuing decline in the number of female deaths directly due to pregnancy and childbirth. In the three-year period 1970-72 there were 355 reported maternal deaths (15·4 per 100,000 maternities). This compares with 455 (18·5) for 1967-69 and with 1,094 (53·3) for 1952-54 when the series of reports began.

This is the first report covering a full three-year period since the Abortion Act 1967 came into operation. Although the main cause of death was abortion (81 deaths) this represents a fall from 117 in 1967-69. Deaths from illegal abortions fell from 74 in 1967-69 to 38 in 1970-72. Deaths from legal

[1] *Report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in England and Wales 1970-72.* DHSS Reports on Health and Social Subjects No 11. HMSO, £1·80. ISBN 0 11 320626 7.

abortions rose from 18 to 37, reflecting the far greater number of legal abortions taking place. The death rate from legal abortion fell steadily from 12·7 per 100,000 pregnancies in 1970 to 8·1 in 1972.

These triennial reports involve detailed investigations of the circumstances leading to each maternal death and contribute to the steadily increasing standards of obstetric care by identifying conditions which can be improved.

ABORTION

The Government's acceptance of recommendations of the Select Committee on the Abortion (Amendment) Bill was announced by Mrs Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, in the House of Commons on 21 October (*Hansard*, cols 244-54). The Select Committee was set up to consider the Abortion (Amendment) Bill, a private member's Bill, after it had received its second reading in the House of Commons on 7 February (*Hansard*, cols 1757-869). The main recommendations of the committee were outlined in a report published on 5 August.

Mrs Castle said that safeguards applying to abortions in the private sector were being strengthened. Only private nursing homes with adequate facilities are to be authorised to carry out terminations of pregnancy after the twentieth week. The Government has also accepted the Select Committee's view that terminations made in National Health Service hospitals after the twentieth week of pregnancy should be carried out only in those hospitals possessing appropriate facilities including resuscitation equipment.

In accordance with the Select Committee's recommendation, the Government is also to review arrangements made by private nursing homes for the reception, counselling and aftercare of patients from foreign countries. Steps are being taken to seek information from all approved nursing homes about the number of foreign patients treated.

Mrs Castle added that she was concerned to ensure that adequate counselling facilities were available for all women who indicated that pregnancies were unwanted. She promised that a draft paper giving guidance on counselling would be circulated for consultation to bodies representing the medical, nursing and social work professions.

The Secretary of State said that her department was undertaking a study of the procedures set out in the Abortion Regulations 1968. Once a report had been made, the procedure for certification and notification of abortions would be considered. Certain changes would be made to the Regulations to ensure that doctors certifying that the conditions of the Abortion Act had been met should examine the patient.

Mrs Castle concluded by saying that she had issued guidance to health authorities concerning day-care systems and that she hoped to authorise such services in some private clinics with records of high standards. She emphasised that the most important preventive action taken by the Government had been the introduction of a comprehensive family planning service which started to function fully as part of the National Health Service in 1975 (see p 164).

BETTER SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

Long-term plans for the comprehensive care of mentally ill people in England are outlined in a Government White Paper, *Better Services for the Mentally Ill* (Cmnd 6233, HMSO £1·35, ISBN 0 10 162330 5). In a foreword to the White Paper, Mrs Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, stresses that the scope for making progress during the next few years is very limited owing to economic conditions but says that 'in a period of severe financial restraint it is even more important that there should be a clear statement of policy objectives against which priorities can be assessed'.

The aim of the Government's proposals is to replace the present system of care, based on large mental hospitals, with a more flexible system better suited to individual needs. This would take the form of locally based services with a greater emphasis on day hospital and out-patient treatment, on local authority day and residential services and on teamwork between all services.

Hospital services would play a much smaller role and would be provided in district-based general hospitals in which there would be a psychiatric unit acting as a centre of specialist treatment for mental illness. The unit would consist of a residential section and a day hospital. Most of the residents would be able to spend time in the day hospital which would be the hub of the unit, and return to the residential section at night. Facilities in the day hospital would include group and individual therapy together with occupational and rehabilitation activities. The great majority of patients residing in the hospital would be discharged after a few weeks but some mentally ill people would continue to need long-term residential care and a part of this would need to be provided by the health services. In the transitional stage mental hospitals would be organised into 'divisions' of about 400 beds, each division providing services for its health district.

The White Paper says that local authority social services for mentally ill people would form part of the new pattern of services. These would include help and support in the home and, where this is not possible, residential care. Various types of residential accommodation are needed, for example, hostels to provide short-term intensive care and rehabilitation, staffed homes giving support to people who have spent a long time in hospital or are without a family, and unstaffed homes where small groups of people who require mutual support can live together more independently. In addition there would be day care involving a wide assortment of activities to meet clients' immediate needs for shelter, occupation and social activity.

A short chapter on security says that every effort should be made to ensure that no patient is subjected to unnecessary restrictions on his freedom. However, some patients are so difficult or unpredictably violent that treatment in more secure conditions is necessary. The White Paper supports the idea of regional security units which are intended for patients who are continuously disturbed in their behaviour or who are persistently violent or considered a danger to the public. Special hospitals will continue to deal with the most dangerous and

violent patients and those who would present an immediate threat to the public in the event of their escaping.

Other chapters in the White Paper discuss the problems of disturbed children and adolescents, alcoholics and drug addicts. It also considers the employment and housing needs of mentally ill people.

A chapter on manpower requirements says that health authorities have been asked to ensure that there is on average one consultant psychiatrist for every 60,000 people. The aim is to increase this ratio, the long-term target being one for every 40,000 people. In addition it is proposed that the present ratio of one child psychiatrist for every 250,000 people should be reduced to one for every 200,000 people.

The Department of Health and Social Security is supporting two projects designed to test the kind of services envisaged in the White Paper. These are the Worcester Development Project under which local services will take over responsibility for new patients and the Southampton Project which is part of a major research project comparing the operation of a service based on a district general hospital psychiatric unit with one based on a 'division' of a mental hospital.

Help for Disabled People

HOUSING AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Increased financial aid is being made available by the Government to assist local authorities in the provision of specially designed housing for disabled people who use wheelchairs. A Government circular to local authorities issued on 2 October says that cost allowances will become automatically available for schemes which broadly conform to the design guidelines of the Department of the Environment; an allowance will also be available to allow special features needed by a particular disabled person to be incorporated at a later stage of construction. In addition a cost allowance is being made available for the provision of 'mobility' housing which is normal housing designed to be convenient for use by handicapped people.

A special design award for buildings open to the public with amenities for disabled people was announced by the Department of the Environment in a circular issued to local authorities on 3 October. The scheme is sponsored by the department, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Central Council for the Disabled. Two awards will be given – one for a new building with the best provision for disabled people and the other for the best adaptation of an existing building. In both cases the work should have been completed between 15 September 1970 and 15 September 1975. Buildings designed exclusively for disabled people are excluded.

INVALIDITY PENSION

The Government's new non-contributory invalidity pension of £7·90 a week became payable from 17 November (see p 244). The pension is designed for men and single women of working age who have been incapable of work for some time but who do not satisfy the conditions for a contributory national insurance invalidity pension. Additional amounts are payable for dependants at the rate of £4·90 for a wife or other adult dependant and £6·50 for each child inclusive of family allowances.

FAMILY FUND

A further £2 million is being provided by the Government to the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust which administers the Family Fund designed to assist families with very severely handicapped children under 16. This is the third Government contribution and brings the total to £8 million (see p 489, 1974).

European Architectural Heritage Year

Britain's contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year 1975 (EAHY) is described in an illustrated book[1] published by the Department of the Environment in October, which states that during the year more than 1,300 projects have been completed or are under way, while the fund raised from private sources to support the campaign has reached £400,000. This will be matched by an equal amount to be contributed by the Government (see p 336, 1974). The book, which was written and produced by the Countess of Dartmouth, Chairman of the United Kingdom Executive Committee of EAHY, and has an introduction contributed by the Duke of Edinburgh, contains some 200 photographs illustrating a wide variety of schemes of conservation and improvement carried out by the Government, local authorities, industry and private owners.

Schemes illustrated range from the restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings to the pedestrianisation of shopping centres and the cleaning and renovation of a railway station. A special point is made of the support given to the campaign by education authorities, many of which have produced heritage guides and other information for use in schools, while the enthusiasm of teachers has given a new impetus to environmental studies. A section of the book contains illustrations of children and young people working at projects to improve the environment. A further section illustrates the use of trees, flowers and shrubs to enhance landscape and buildings; and the book ends with a selection of photographs showing the European influence on British architecture.

Special Housing Award

EAHY also featured in the 1975 awards for good design in housing (see p 78), when a special silver medal was offered for a scheme considered to make an outstanding contribution to the built environment.

1 *What is our Heritage?* HMSO £3·50. ISBN 0 11 750908 6.

This was presented, along with other awards and diplomas, by the Minister for Housing and Construction, Mr Reg Freeson, at a ceremony in London on 23 October. It was awarded to the designers of a scheme of public sector houses and flats in Norwich built within the grounds of a refurbished house and, in the words of the assessment, achieving 'the very difficult art of distinction without extravagant display'. Nine other awards were made and 16 schemes were highly commended.

Nature Conservancy Council

The first report of the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), covering the period from its inauguration by Act of Parliament in November 1973 (see pp 336 and 386, 1973) to the end of March 1975, was published on 30 October.[1] Introducing the report at a press conference, the chairman of the council, Sir David Serpell, stressed that the work of nature conservation brought the NCC 'into the thick of many of the most important issues of the day'. As a forward-looking body, it watched and anticipated the trends of society and gave clear advice about the best ways to harmonise nature conservation and other demands and needs. It had a unique statutory duty to take account of actual or possible ecological change.

The NCC is the official body responsible for nature conservation in Great Britain and is the Government's statutory adviser on all nature conservation matters. It has wide-ranging responsibilities for disseminating information and advice, for commissioning research and for managing national nature reserves established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. It acts as an advisory body to local authorities, which may declare local nature reserves, and it is empowered to make grants for nature conservation projects which might not be undertaken without some financial help (see p 383). The council has established advisory committees for England, Scotland and Wales and an advisory committee on science; and in addition to the Great Britain headquarters in London, there are separate headquarters for each of the three countries and a further tier of regional offices in each country.

Review of Progress

One of the NCC's principal functions is the establishment, maintenance and management of national nature reserves (which may be on land owned by the council, leased by it, or managed by it under an agreement with the owner). In the period covered by the report, five new reserves, and extensions to nine existing reserves, brought the total number to 140, covering 114,515 hectares (282,976 acres). (Sir David Serpell pointed out that since the report went to press six more reserves had been declared, bringing the total to 146 and the area to 119,585 hectares – 295,507 acres.) The reserves have been selected to represent a cross-section of natural and semi-natural vegetation occurring in Britain and their associated wild fauna, together with some areas of exceptional physical or geological importance. The report notes that, although the overriding purposes of management of the nature reserves is to protect, maintain and if possible enhance their wildlife and outstanding physical features, the council 'recognise that many of the public are interested in seeing and enjoying this heritage, and our objective is to allow as much public access as is compatible with the primary aims of conservation and research'.

In its advisory capacity, the NCC was consulted by Government departments, during the period reviewed, over a number of major developments: for example, in connection with the special problems of North Sea oil and natural gas, which involve changes in the environment in many areas. Its efforts were directed towards ensuring that nature conservation interests were fully taken into account at a sufficiently early stage by those responsible for the development. The council also acted as adviser on proposed legislation for the protection of threatened species of wild creatures and plants (now embodied in the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act – see p 387). Regional staff were involved in advising local planning authorities on the nature conservation aspects of development planning – especially during the period of local government reorganisation – and contributed to a number of planning studies of areas of special importance for nature conservation. By March 1975, 44 local nature reserves had been declared, including five declared and one extended since November 1973.

Collaboration with other organisations concerned with conservation is considered by the NCC to be of special significance in achieving consistent policies. The report points out that, in addition to national and local nature reserves, areas totalling some 37,000 hectares (90,000 acres) are managed by voluntary bodies. Since 1974 a series of meetings has been held with voluntary, professional and scientific bodies, in order to strengthen contacts and collaboration, and in March 1975 a first meeting took place between the Royal Society and the NCC at which agreement was reached to develop long-term co-operation over research and education.

[1] *Nature Conservancy Council. First Report, 1 November 1973–31 March 1975.* HMSO, £2·25. ISBN 0 10 024995 7.

Sport

SPORTS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Grants totalling some £1,985,000 were made by the Sports Council in 1974-75 towards 65 major local authority schemes, including 24 sports centres, six swimming pools, seven golf courses and six sports halls. In addition, about 130 voluntary club projects were offered grant assistance totalling £880,000; and grants to national sports bodies for coaching, training and competition amounted to some £1,289,000.

Presenting the council's annual report (available from the Sports Council, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3 1EX, 30p), Sir Robin Brook, its new chairman, said that, although the financial year 1974-75 had been a difficult one, the Sports Council was proud of its achievements in providing facilities and helping the governing bodies of sport. He also announced a package of low-cost schemes and self-help measures designed to provide more opportunities for people to take part in sport. These included play areas in high-density housing sites, low-cost sports halls, the conversion of disused premises, and the further use of school sports facilities.

SPORTS AID FOUNDATION

The formation of an independent Sports Aid Foundation was announced on 21 October by the Minister of State for Sport and Recreation, Mr Denis Howell, and the chairman of the Sports Council, Sir Robin Brook. Under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Cadbury, and with the support of the Sports Council and the British Olympic Association, the foundation will raise and distribute funds to assist the training of individual sportsmen and sportswomen.

Financial support will be sought from industry, commerce and private sponsors, and all sports will be eligible for grants from the foundation. Assistance will be offered to leading national and international competitors, and to new talent. Members of Britain's Olympic team are expected to be among the first to benefit from the scheme.

The Sports Aid Foundation will work closely at all times with the governing bodies of sport and grants will be made on their recommendation. Each national sports association will be asked to appoint a liaison officer who will ensure that grant schemes are within the rules of the international sports federations.

Gambling

Royal Commission Established

The setting up of a Royal Commission on Gambling was announced by the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, to Parliament on 23 October (*Hansard*, written answers, col 219). The commission, which will be under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild, will be asked to submit an early interim report on the possibilities of a levy on football pools as a means of providing financial assistance to sport. The terms of reference of the commission will be as follows:

To inquire into the existing law, and practice thereunder, relating to betting, gaming, lotteries and prize competitions, with particular reference to:

a the adequacy of the restrictions imposed on the provision of facilities for the different forms of gambling, the consistency of the principles applied, and whether there is need for greater uniformity of control;

b the practices and financial structure of the gambling industry and the inter-relation of their gambling interests with other interests;

c the publication of information about gambling activities, the methods of selecting winners or fixing odds, and the appropriation of receipts;

d the contribution made from the proceeds of gambling towards the support of other activities (including sport), the means by which this might be enhanced, and the conditions to be imposed.

DOCUMENTATION

(*Documentation excludes publications referred to in Survey articles*)

Government and Administration

Central Government. COI, FSB/B1.

British Government Information Services. COI, SN5256.

Ulster Year Book 1975. The Official Handbook of Northern Ireland. Prepared by the Northern Ireland Information Service. HMSO, £2. ISBN 0 337 01025 0.

Criminal Procedure in Scotland. Deals with all stages of criminal procedure from pre-trial proceedings to the trial itself. An interim report on criminal appeals was published in August 1972 [Cmnd 5038; see p 358, 1972]. Cmnd 6218. HMSO, £3·60. ISBN 0 10 162180 9.

Convention on the Recognition of Divorces and Legal Separations (*The Hague, 1 June 1970*). The United Kingdom instrument of ratification was deposited on 21 May 1974 and the convention entered into force on 24 August 1975. Cmnd 6248. HMSO, 22p. ISBN 0 10 162480 8.

Magna Carta. COI, SN4418.

External Affairs and Defence

Visit of the Prime Minister to Romania, 16-18 September 1975 (see pp 396-7). Cmnd 6269. HMSO, 50p. ISBN 0 10 162690 8.

Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel (with final Act). Brussels, 11 May 1975. Cmnd 6249. HMSO, £2·70. ISBN 0 10 162490 5.

Treaty amending certain Financial Provisions of the Treaties establishing the European Communities and of the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities. Brussels, 22 July 1975. Cmnd 6252. HMSO, 40p. ISBN 0 10 162520 0. This extends the budgetary powers of the European Assembly and establishes as a new Community institution a Court of Auditors (see p 314).

The Tuvalu Order 1975. Order in Council establishing, and providing a constitution for, the colony of Tuvalu (formerly the Ellice Islands: see p 397). HMSO, 55p. ISBN 0 11 052590 6.

Economic and Scientific Affairs

The North West. The English Regions. COI, R5989.

Minimum Lending Rate (*MLR*). The Bank of England's MLR was raised from 11 per cent to 12 per cent on 3 October. *Economic Progress Report* No 68. Prepared by the Information Division of the Treasury. Available from Circulation Section (H), COI.

International Monetary Fund (*IMF*) *Borrowing.* The Government announced on 10 November that Britain had applied to the IMF for a drawing of SDR 1,000 million (about £575 million) under the 1975 oil facility and for facilities up to and including the first credit tranche of normal IMF drawings amounting to a further SDR 700 million (about £400 million). Drawings were not expected until 1976. The decision had been taken because, in relation to the oil facility, it was essential for the IMF to know what British application would be made in order to plan disposition of the remaining resources of the facility. *Hansard,* col 920.

Banking. In the light of the proposed EEC directive on banking law, which would require prior authorisation of deposit-taking institutions, and of the experience in the domestic financial sector in recent years, the Government has decided in principle to introduce legislation which will enable it to meet the requirement of the proposed directive. *Hansard,* 30.10.75, written answers, col 534.

Trustee Savings Banks. Report of the Inspection Committee of Trustee Savings Banks for the year ended 20 November 1974. HMSO, 37p. ISBN 0 11 630255 0.

The Royal Mint. COI, FSB/F3.

Agreement on Technical Co-operation between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Cmnd 6264. HMSO, 40p. ISBN 0 10 162640 1.

Agreement on Technical Co-operation between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Paraguay. Cmnd 6212. HMSO, 20p. ISBN 0 10 162120 5.

Planning the British Aid Programme. Overseas Development Paper No 5. HMSO, 30p. ISBN 0 11 580201 0.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Agreement regarding International Trade in Textiles. Cmnd 6205. HMSO, 28p. ISBN 0 10 162050 0.

British Overseas Trade Board. Report 1975. The report reviews trends and prospects for overseas trade and the work and organisation of the board including that of its advisory groups (see p 294) and concludes with charts and statistics on Britain's balance of payments and the commodity and geographical distribution of its exports. British Overseas Trade Board, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Exchange Control Act 1974. Exports from the United Kingdom. A revised *Notice to Exporters*, which brings together in convenient form all the relevant exchange control requirements that apply to exports, has been issued. Treasury press notice, 28.10.75.

District Manpower Committees. The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) has set up a network of 125 advisory committees throughout the country to enable it to make use of the experience of people who have a special interest in local employment problems and thus develop the full range of its manpower services. The MSC will seek advice from the committees on four points: the operation of the labour market, appraisal of current services, promotion of current services, and advice on more general issues. MSC press notice, 14.10.75.

Unemployment in the Construction Industry. In a parliamentary answer on 31 October the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Joel Barnett, said that arrangements would be made immediately with local authorities and other bodies concerned for new work to be commissioned from the construction industry for completion by the end of 1976-77 (see pp 409-10). A total of £30 million would be allocated as follows: £24 million for England, including £12 million for improvements of publicly owned housing and £4 million each for the National Health Service, education and other local authority services, £3·5 million for Scotland, and £2·5 million for Wales. The projects authorised under these arrangements would be directed to social and economic purposes to which the Government was giving priority, including assistance to inner city areas. Details would be announced as soon as possible of a corresponding programme of works in Northern Ireland, at a cost of £2 million. *Hansard*, 31.10.75, written answers, cols 641-2.

Trade Unions. COI, FSB/C10.

Health and Safety Commission. Proposals requiring employers to make available to their employees more information on health, safety and welfare at work are contained in a consultative document issued by the commission on 29 October. Copies of the document are available from the Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2 4TF. Regulations exempting employers with fewer than five employees from having to produce a written safety policy became law on 1 November. The exemption does not remove the obligation on such employers to have a safety policy and to communicate to employees on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work. The commission has issued a free pamphlet (HSC 6) giving guidance to employers on the form and content of the policy statement and which is available from the executive (see address above).

Chief Alkali Inspector's Annual Report 1974. This is the eleventh and last report of the Chief Alkali and Clean Air Inspector to be published under the Alkali Works Regulation Act 1906. On 1 January 1975 the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate became part of the Health and Safety Executive established under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Emissions of smoke, grit and dust in the electricity industry had been reduced from 1 million tons a year in 1958 (from 43 million tons of coal) to 191,000 tons in 1972 (from 58 million tons of coal and 16 million tons of oil). In the cement industry they had been reduced from 150,000 tons a year to 30,000 tons from nearly double the production between 1960 and 1975. HMSO, £2·25. ISBN 0 11 750524 2.

Survey of Respiratory Diseases in the Pottery Industry. Health and Safety Executive. The survey was designed to establish priorities for further action to prevent occupational disease in the industry. HMSO, 35p. ISBN 0 11 880346 8.

Vinyl Chloride. The Health and Safety Executive Working Group, which was established following evidence received in January 1974 of health hazards associated with vinyl chloride and which produced the Vinyl Chloride Code of Practice for Health Precautions (see p 122), has agreed on an improved hygiene standard to operate immediately. The group agreed that, while the objective was still to bring exposure as near as possible to zero concentrations, the industry would start working immediately to a higher standard than the one laid down in June 1974. The new standard will be 10 parts per million (ppm) of vinyl chloride vapour in the working environment averaged over a whole shift – the new ceiling value being 30 ppm. (The old standard was 25 and 50 ppm respectively.) Health and Safety Executive press notice, 9.10.75.

Fire Precautions. With effect from 1 January 1977 the Health and Safety Executive (see p 42) is to assume sole responsibility for enforcing all fire

precautions in premises where fire hazards carry special risks requiring the executive's expertise, such as nuclear installations and explosives factories. (The executive will continue to have sole responsibility for enforcement relating to all fire hazards arising from industrial processes.) In addition, the Health and Safety Commission (see p 42) has agreed that responsibility for enforcing general fire precautions, at present shared between the Factory Inspectorate and local fire authorities, will pass from the Inspectorate entirely to the fire authorities (in England and Wales, the county councils; in Scotland, the regional councils or island area councils). Responsibilities for Crown premises will be assumed in England and Wales by the Home Office and in Scotland by the Scottish Home and Health Department. The changes are part of a rationalisation of responsibility for the enforcement of fire precautions deriving from the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (see p 303, 1974). Health and Safety Executive press notice, 28.10.75.

Dividend Controls. Companies which are accepted as resident abroad for purposes of both taxation and exchange control may apply to the Treasury for exemptions from the current dividend control regulations (see pp 499, 528, 1973, 316, 1974, and 269). This is intended to clarify the position of a number of companies mainly engaged in mining or plantation which are caught technically by the controls as they were incorporated in Britain, but which are already officially regarded as overseas companies for taxation and exchange control purposes. Treasury press notice, 20.10.75.

Dividend Controls and Rights Issues. The Counter-Inflation (Dividends) (Amendment) (No 3) Order 1975, made on 17 October, requires companies making a rights issue at a discount of more than 25 per cent of the market price on the Stock Exchange to obtain the consent of the Treasury if they wish to maintain the dividend per share that was declared for the last financial year before the issue. HMSO, 8p. ISBN 0 11 051674 5.

Price Commission. Report for the period 1 June to 31 August 1975. The report indicates that the underlying rate of inflation may now be falling but warns that price increases will continue at a high level for a period, both because the full effect of the rise in pay settlements in the spring and summer of 1975 has not yet been fully reflected in prices and because the depreciation in sterling has affected import costs. However, the lower level of pay settlements under the Government's new policy (see pp 269, 318) will produce a real improvement which should be clearly apparent by the spring of 1976. HMSO, £1·10. ISBN 0 10 026315 1.

Retail Prices Index (RPI). An article in *Employment News* 25, the Department of Employment newspaper, gives full details about the RPI including an explanation of its origin, the work involved in collecting the prices, weightings, and why it has earned its high reputation for reliability as a measure of the movement of retail prices. Available free from the Department of Employment (INF 3), 12 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LL.

Intoxicating liquor and other drinks. Proposals for an order under the Prices Act 1974 (see pp 164-6. 1974) requiring prices to be displayed for intoxicating liquor and other drinks sold for consumption on licensed premises, passenger steamers and trains from 1 December 1975, were circulated on 7 October. Copies are available from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, SWM2, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN.

Forming a New Business – a booklet published by the Department of Industry's Small Firms Information Service, providing guidance for people intending to set up small businesses and listing organisations that are able to provide particular kinds of help. Free, from Small Firms Division, Department of Industry, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN or from Small Firms Information Centres.

British Industry Today: Motor Vehicles. COI, R5374/75.

Working Party on Direct Labour Organisations. Mr Reginald Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, announced in October the setting up of a departmental working party on direct labour organisations to provide a basis for future policy on their development and to ensure that they can play a full and developing role in the construction industry. Direct labour organisations are set up by local authorities to repair, maintain or improve local authority property. Department of the Environment press notice, 14.10.75.

Industrial Design in Britain. COI, SN5893.

Agriculture. Britain and the Developing Countries. COI, R5780/75.

Schedule to the International Whaling Convention 1946. Contains the amendments made by the International Whaling Commission at its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth meetings held in London in 1973 (see pp 289-90, 1973) and 1974 respectively. Cmnd 6046. HMSO, 14p. ISBN 0 10 160460 2.

Petroleum. COI, FSI/13.

Energy: The Key Resource. Department of Energy. Energy Paper No 4. HMSO, 43p. ISBN 0 11 410269 4.

Energy Conservation. First Report from the Select Committee on Science and Technology. Report and Minutes of Evidence. HMSO, £6·70. ISBN 0 10 029895 8.

National Travel Survey, 1972-73. Cross-sectional analysis of passenger travel in Great Britain. Department of the Environment. HMSO, £1·10. ISBN 0 11 550364 1.

Nobel Prizes. Though no British citizen received a Nobel award in 1975, two of the awards were made to scientists working in British institutions. Professor J. W. Cornforth, an Australian citizen, who shared the Nobel Prize for Chemistry with Dr Vladimir Prelog (Switzerland) for work on the stereochemistry of enzyme-catalyzed reactions, joined the staff of the British Medical Research Council in 1946 and since 1962 has directed research at the Milstead Laboratory of Chemical Enzymology, owned by Shell Research Ltd and now works at Sussex University. Dr Renato Delbucco, an Italian-born American, who shared the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine with two of his former pupils, Dr David Baltimore (US) and Dr Howard Temin (US), for 'discoveries involving interaction between tumour viruses and the genetic 'material of the cell', now works at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratory in London.

European Science Foundation. First annual report [for origins and nature of organisation see pp 445-6, 1973]. Copies obtainable from European Science Foundation, 1 quai Lezay Marnezia, 67000 Strasbourg, France.

European Space Agency. Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency with Final Act. Cmnd 6272. HMSO, 55p. ISBN 0 10 162720 3.

National Corrosion Service. A National Corrosion Service has been established at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex (see *Corrosion Prevention*, COI, NST/57). Information: Dr G. P. Rothwell, National Corrosion Service, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0LW.

National Research Development Corporation. Twenty-Sixth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 1974-75. Available from the NRDC, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SL.

The National Research Development Corporation. COI, NST/9.

Institute of Geological Sciences. Annual report for 1974. Seel House Press Limited, Seel Street, Liverpool L1 4AY. IGS, £2·80. ISBN 0 85272 056 4.

Directorate of Overseas Surveys. Annual report for the year ended 31 March 1974. HMSO, £2·40. ISBN 0 11 580173 1.

Strasbourg Agreement concerning the International Patent Classification 1975. Cmnd 6238. HMSO, 26p. ISBN 0 10 162380 1.

Refuse Storage and Collection. Report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection (Chairman H. H. Browne), 1967. Reprinted 1975. HMSO, £2. ISBN 0 11 750909 4.

Social and Cultural Affairs

Geography. COI, FSB/A1.

Census 1971: England and Wales. Household Composition Tables. Part III (10 per cent sample). Analyses the composition of households, using various criteria related to the family. Among its findings are: that between 1961 and 1971 the number of families in England and Wales rose by over half a million to just over 13 million, married couples who were both working rose from 32 per cent to 47 per cent of all married couples, and working mothers with dependent children rose from 27 per cent to 40 per cent. HMSO, £5·90. ISBN 0 11 690501 8.

Variant Population Projections: 1974-2011. Great Britain. A report prepared by the Government Actuary and issued by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, indicating the effect on projections of future population size and structure of alternative assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration. HMSO, 65p. ISBN 0 11 690540 9.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland. Report for 1974. Cmnd 6170. HMSO, 37p. ISBN 0 10 161700 3.

Two-parent families in receipt of Family Income Supplement 1972: a study enquiring into the financial and material circumstances of two-parent families receiving a Family Income Supplement. Department of Health and Social Security. Statistical and Research Report Series No 9. HMSO, £4·60. ISBN 0 11 320602 X.

Research Study on Supplementary Benefit Appeal Tribunals. A review by Kathleen Bell, of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations. Department of Health and Social Security. HMSO, 55p. ISBN 0 11 760335 X.

Health and Personal Social Services Statistics for Wales. No 2, 1975. [statistics for 1974]. HMSO, Cardiff, £3·35. ISBN 0 11 790064 8.

Living and Working in Residential Homes. Published by the Personal Social Services Council, 2-16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN. 60p.

Help for Handicapped People. (Leaflet HB 1.) A pamphlet summarising social provision for disabled people. Obtainable free of charge from the Department of Health and Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6BY.

Schools Council Report 1974-75. Evans/Methuen Educational. £1·25. ISBN 0 423 47140 6.

Acoustics in Educational Buildings. Department of Education and Science. Building Bulletin No 51. Gives design advice to help improve acoustic conditions in schools and other educational buildings. HMSO, £2. ISBN 0 11 270348 8*.

New Towns.

Annual report of the Commission for the New Towns for the period ended 31 March 1975 (Crawley, Hemel Hempstead, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City). HMSO, 95p. ISBN 0 10 026265 1.

Annual reports of the Development Corporations for the period ended 31 March 1975 (Aycliffe, Basildon, Bracknell, Central Lancashire New Town, Corby, Harlow, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Peterborough, Peterlee, Redditch, Runcorn, Skelmersdale, Stevenage, Telford, Warrington, Washington). HMSO, £6·50. ISBN 0 10 026255 4.

Annual reports of the Welsh Development Corporations for the year ended 31 March 1975 (Cwmbran, Newtown [Mid-Wales]). HMSO, £1·05. ISBN 0 10 024535 8.

Annual reports of the Scottish Development Corporations for the year ended 31 March 1975 (Cumbernauld, East Kilbride and Stonehouse, Glenrothes, Irvine, Livingston). HMSO, £3·10. ISBN 0 10 024755 5.

Scottish Sports Council. Second report 1973-75. Available from the Scottish Sports Council, 4 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PB. 50p.

INDEX

November 1973

INDEX

November 1975

Aid, overseas, 446

Construction overseas, British, 439
Crown Agents, 448

Disabled people, help for, 451

Economy, the, 433
European Architectural Heritage Year, 451

Family expenditure survey 1974, 436

Gambling, 453
Government
  industrial strategy, 434

Industry
  awards, 443
  Government's industrial strategy, 434

Latin America, Britain and, 431

National Health Service, 449
National Water Council, 445
Nature Conservancy Council, 452
Northern Ireland, 427

Offshore oil and gas, 444

Saudi Arabia, British relations, 430
Social security, 449
Sport, 452

Trade, invisible, trends in, 437

Printed in England for
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
by Richard Madley Ltd, London N19 4AG

G2646 Dd.110875 6,150 NOVEMBER/75 1976